
Subject: MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE DOVER DISTRICT HERITAGE STRATEGY

Meeting and Date: Cabinet – 1 June 2020

Report of: Lois Jarrett, Head of Planning, Regeneration and Development

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Nicholas Kenton, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services

Decision Type: Executive Non-Key Decision

Classification: Unrestricted

Purpose of the report: To seek approval to make amendments to the text of the Dover District Heritage Strategy, and to allow for future amendments to the text as necessary to allow for changes to guidance or advice from Central Government and Historic England, and to update factual detail and sources of information where cited.

Recommendation: Cabinet agrees to:

1. The proposed amendments as set out in Appendix 1; and
 2. Authorises the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Development to make any necessary editorial changes to the Strategy, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder, to assist with clarity, consistency, explanation and presentation, and where necessary to ensure ongoing continued consistency with central Government guidance, guidance or advice from Historic England and others, and to update factual detail and sources of information where cited.
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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks to obtain approval for amendments to the text of the Dover District Heritage Strategy and to request that the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Development in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder is authorised to make future amendments to the text as necessary to ensure the Strategy remains consistent with guidance and advice from Central Government, Historic England, and to update factual detail and sources of information should these change.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Dover District Heritage Strategy was adopted by Cabinet on the 8th July 2013 and demonstrates the Councils approach to the safeguarding, promotion and enhancement of the Districts heritage.
- 2.2 The Strategy has been reviewed as part of the local plan process and it is necessary to edit the Strategy to take note of changes that have occurred since its adoption. This is necessary to ensure that the Heritage Strategy is consistent with guidance from Central Government and that it remains robust and fit for purpose.
- 2.3 The Strategy has been amended to deal with the following:

- (a) The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated in February 2019. While there have been no change in terms of Central Governments objective of sustainable development and the acknowledgment of the role that the historic environment can play in achieving this aim, some text has been either removed or amended and paragraph numbers changed.
- (b) Central Governments advisors on the historic environment were known as English Heritage at the time of the adoption of the first edition of the Strategy. Following a division of the organisation into two parts, the body responsible for advice to the Government is now known as Historic England. All references to English Heritage have been replaced with Historic England.
- (c) Where the Strategy provided links to guidance or information documents or webpages which were originally produced by English Heritage and which are now expired, these have been replaced either;
 - (i) with new links to the same documents where the documents are still valid,
 - (ii) to new documents on the same subject which have replaced the original document, or,
 - (iii) a relevant webpage on the Historic England website providing either the same information or which acts as a hub for similar information on a particular subject.
- (d) Where the Strategy linked to documents other than those noted above that are outdated and have been superseded by more recent documents, these links have been replaced with their updated equivalent.
- (e) Where the Strategy linked to information that has been superseded and for which no updated equivalent has been produced, these links have been deleted entirely from the text.
- (f) Where new and relevant documents by Historic England have been produced these have been included in chapter 8: Sources and Consultation.
- (g) References to the Core Strategy and the assessment of development sites for the Land Allocations Local Plan 2015 have been removed from the text. This ensures that the Heritage Strategy is a standalone document that can provide evidence for future local plans.

2.4 Additional text has been indicated in **bold** in the Strategy. Deleted text has ~~strikeout~~.

2.5 A table setting out the amendments and the reason for the change required is set out in Appendix 1, and a full word version of the amended Heritage Strategy is available if requested.

3. Identification of Options

3.1 Option 1: That the amendments to the Dover District Heritage Strategy are agreed and the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Development in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder is authorised to make any necessary future editorial changes to the Strategy to ensure ongoing continued consistency with central Government guidance, guidance

or advice from Historic England and others, and to update factual detail and sources of information where cited: or

- 3.2 Option 2: That the amendments to the Dover District Heritage Strategy are not agreed and the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Development is not authorised to make any necessary future editorial changes.

4. Evaluation of Options

- 4.1 The Heritage Strategy fulfils the requirement under the NPPF for local planning authorities to set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.

- 4.2 If the amendments are not made the Strategy would be inconsistent with current guidance and advice from Central Government and Historic England, and the requirement within the NPPF for the local planning authority to have a positive strategy for the historic environment would not be met. To ensure that the Heritage Strategy continues to be robust and fit for purpose, future amendments will be required to the text as and when necessary.

- 4.3 Option 1 is therefore recommended.

5. Resource Implications

- 5.1 The updated Heritage Strategy would be made available on the District Council's website.

- 5.2 Further internal resources of officer time will be required on a limited basis as and when necessary to update the Strategy.

6. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

- 6.1 The proposed amendments to the Heritage Strategy are minor editorial changes only. Implications in respect of the environment and climate change in respect of the historic environment are considered on a case by case basis through the planning system, defined by legislation and supported by national policy and guidance.

7. Corporate Implications

- 7.1 Comment from the Section 151 Officer: "Finance have been consulted and have nothing further to add. SG"

- 7.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: "The Planning Solicitor has been consulted in relation to this report and has no further comments to make."

- 7.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report does not specifically highlight any equality implications, however in discharging their duties members are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/149>

- 7.4 Other Officers (as appropriate): None.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Table setting out the amendments and the reason for the change required

Background Papers

Dover District Heritage Strategy 2013.

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