



## Review of Heritage Assets and the Management of the Historic Environment

### SUMMARY

1.1 The Planning and Transportation Commission decided that a major item of their work programme in 2009/10 should be The Historic Environment and in particular Buildings of Heritage and Importance. This area of responsibility had been transferred to the Commission's portfolio and it coincides with the recent English Heritage (EH) publication 'Making the Most of Your Local Heritage: A Guide for Overview and Scrutiny Committees' (May 2009).

1.2 Officers in the Regeneration Division prepared a full report (at Appendix 2) to give a local view and to answer the two key questions set out in the English Heritage Guidance:

- a). How can the Historic Environment contribute more toward our Authority's main strategic aims?
- b). How is our Authority protecting key historic assets for future generations?

The report also addressed the supplementary questions posed in the English Heritage guidance note.

1.3 Following a brief introduction that highlights the importance of the historic environment, the report looked at the local conservation service here in Derby. Each of the case studies featured in the English Heritage guidance note were then reviewed in the local context from which the most salient points are drawn together in the concluding section, paras.3.53 to 3.58. The report made specific reference to Derby's statutory list of Listed Buildings and to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, (DVMWHS).

1.4 The report's authors suggested practical steps that the Commission might wish to put forward to Council Cabinet. The Commission's consideration of the report was on 10 December 2009 and the outcome was the confirmation of the recommendations below.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council Cabinet approve and adopt the following recommendations:

- 2.1 To request English Heritage to undertake a full review of the Derby list of statutory listed buildings;
- 2.2 To support the active promotion of the Derwent Valley Mills Worlds Heritage Site as a major heritage/tourism asset and as a major economic driver for the city;
- 2.3 To acknowledge the historic environment as a major contributor to the character and economic well-being of the city within the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and within future reviews of the Sustainable Community Strategy
- 2.4 To request officers to continue to seek out external funding opportunities to assist bringing historic buildings back into use; and
- 2.5 To recommend that Heritage Open Days be promoted by all those Council services that can contribute towards a varied programme of events

## REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Recommendation 2.1: As councils' overview and scrutiny bodies were asked by English Heritage to promote local heritage, the Commission consider that English Heritage should itself assist us. The City of Derby's Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest (Listed Buildings) dates from 1977 and is probably one of the oldest in the country. Although from time to time there have been additions and updates to the existing entries, there is an urgent need for the Listing Branch of English Heritage to undertake a review of the list and a resurvey of the buildings of the city to ensure all those that meet the listing criteria are included on the statutory list. Our current review of locally listed buildings should be of much assistance to English Heritage in any future review of our statutory list.
- 3.2 Recommendation 2.2: The recognition of the potential of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site to be a major economic driver for the City will help place this prime heritage asset at the heart of the Council's strategic aims. This fully accords with the recommendations in the April 2005 report of the former Culture and Prosperity Commission.
- 3.3 Recommendation 2.3: The preparation of the LDF Core Strategy and the next Sustainable Community Strategy will provide the opportunity for the Council to consider the role of the wider historic development within its main strategic aims/objectives. Inclusion in the SCS would also increase the likelihood of associated actions appearing in the next LAA. The historic environment can deliver against National Indicator's 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 110.
- 3.4 Recommendation 2.4: The lack of revenue budgetary provision to grant aid repairs or enhancements greatly limits the means by which buildings at risk can be successfully protected. Therefore it is important that every opportunity is taken to identify/secure any form of external funding.

- 3.5 Recommendation 2.5: Heritage Open Days are the biggest, and thought to be the most popular, voluntary cultural event in England. The Stockport case study demonstrates what can be achieved but there are issues about the necessary organisational capacity available to maximise the potential in Derby

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4 The supporting information is set out in the report considered by the Commission.

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<b>Background papers:</b>	Report of the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services to the Planning and Transportation Commission 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2009, REVIEW OF BUILDINGS OF HERITAGE AND IMPORTANCE. <a href="http://cmis.derby.gov.uk/CMISWebPublic/Binary.ashx?Document=13893">http://cmis.derby.gov.uk/CMISWebPublic/Binary.ashx?Document=13893</a> Making the Most of Your Local Heritage: A Guide for Overview and Scrutiny Committees – English Heritage 2009 <a href="http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/MMYLH.pdf?1259747717">http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/MMYLH.pdf?1259747717</a> Local Area Agreements and the Historic Environment – English Heritage 2008 (also at <a href="http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/LAA.pdf">http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/LAA.pdf</a> ) Review of the way in which Derby City Council promotes the part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site that lies within the City boundary <a href="http://cmis.derby.gov.uk/CMISWebPublic/Binary.ashx?Document=3532">http://cmis.derby.gov.uk/CMISWebPublic/Binary.ashx?Document=3532</a>
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 - Review of Heritage Assets and the Management of the Historic Environment – Issues Paper

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

- 1.1 Any new initiatives would be the subject of bids for Council funding in future budget rounds
- 1.2 Officers will continue to look for opportunities to bid for external funds.

**Legal**

- 2.1 No implications.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 Existing staff

**Equalities Impact**

- 4.1 No implications.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 5.1 Enhancement and appreciation of the historic environment will help make us proud of our neighbourhoods, lead Derby towards a better environment, support everyone in learning and achieving, and help us all to be healthy, active and independent.

## Review of Heritage Assets and the Management of the Historic Environment – Issues Paper

- 1 The historic environment is important and gives our City a unique sense of identity. “Power of Place” (2000), a landmark publication in recent heritage policy, defined the historic environment as that which generations of people have made their places in which we lived. As such they are irreplaceable, represent the places we live, the inspirational places we visit and an incomparable resource for learning about our past and our present. It can also be a tool to attract investment and the relocation of people & businesses to help transform a city.
- 2 The Government’s planning policies include provision for the protection of the historic environment in recognition of the essential role that it plays in creating a distinctive sense of place. The Government strategy for improving the quality of place (“World Class Places”, Communities and Local Government 2009) identifies the sensitive treatment of historic buildings and sites as one of four elements that contributes towards quality of place.
- 3 English Heritage’s recent publication ‘Making the Most of Your Local Heritage’ (2009) advises Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Commissions) to maximise the historic environment’s potential in their areas, by incorporating heritage into their mainstream activities as a way of delivering core indicators and objectives such as those set out in the Local Area Agreement. EH advises that strong management of the historic environment can have an extremely positive effect on resident satisfaction and community cohesion and will ensure heritage assets receive best possible protection. It is also advised that Overview and Scrutiny Committees can help the Authority as a whole enhance the character of their local area, engage more with the public, and protect unique heritage assets for future generations.

### Conservation in Derby

- 4 In Derby, we have a wide range of listed buildings and other heritage assets comprising:
  - part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site (DVMWHS)
  - 388 statutorily listed buildings; 9 grade I, 40 grade II\* and 339 grade II
  - 15 conservation areas
  - 3 English Heritage registered Parks/Gardens
  - 165 locally listed buildings/artefacts (the list is presently under review)
  - 7 Scheduled Ancient Monuments
  - 752 entries on the former Sites & Monuments record (now referred to as the Historic Environment Record or HER).
- 5 Historically, the city of Derby has made a major contribution to innovation/modern society and many of the city’s heritage sites & buildings are the physical evidence of it’s role in the enlightenment period, the birth of the factory system, the development of the railways & the motor car and more recently the aerospace industry. The City has developed a good track record for conservation over the past 20 years or so and

has successfully protected all of its statutorily listed buildings, with the exception of the former Railway Orphanage, Ashbourne Road which was demolished by the Derbyshire County Council in 1978. There have been many highly successful conservation projects in the city, both private-sector led schemes which the City Council has managed through the development control process, and also schemes initiated by the City Council itself:

- Railway workers cottages, Railway Terrace
- County Courts, St Mary's Gate
- Rykneld Tean Mills
- City centre Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) projects
- The Roundhouse project
- Cathedral Quarter Hotel
- Current City Centre grant schemes – Building Repair and Building Frontage Enhancement schemes

6 The conservation service is provided within the Built Environment Team which forms part of the City Development & Tourism Service of the Regeneration Division. There are 1.7 FTE conservation officers supported by a part-time (0.4FTE) technical support officer that work under a Team Leader who also has responsibilities towards public art and urban design. A revenue budget provision for Historic Buildings grants has fallen from £40,000 in 2006/7 to the current level of £6,253 in the current financial year.

7 Briefly, the main work areas of the conservation team currently comprise:

- Providing specialist conservation advice to the Development Control planning teams and potential developers/building owners and also to the Property Services & Building Maintenance teams re Council-owned buildings
- Servicing the Conservation Area Advisory Committee
- A major review of the list of Locally Listed Buildings
- Managing the work of consultants undertaking a number of Conservation Area Appraisals
- Managing the City Centre Grant Schemes (DCC funding from the Public Realm programme)
- The Hippodrome Theatre case
- Managing the preparation of the Darley Abbey Regeneration Strategy (funded largely by emda with a contribution from Environmental Services)
- Buildings at Risk survey
- DVMWHS matters

8 Given this work programme, the small conservation team is working at full capacity, on top of which, it is frequently required to respond to unforeseen demands as well. This reactionary work is often of an urgent nature and can only be undertaken at the expense of the planned, proactive work.

9 As a unitary authority, the Council also has formal responsibility for archaeological matters but these are addressed by a Service Level Agreement with the Derbyshire County Council Archaeological Unit at an annual cost of around £10,000 p.a.

- 10 Cabinet Member responsibility for conservation/heritage rests with Cllr Lucy Care as part of her portfolio for Planning and Transport although Cllr Joe Naitta, Cabinet Member for Leisure & Culture has specific responsibility for heritage buildings.
- 11 There is a well-established Conservation Area Advisory Committee comprising local representatives of local & national amenity bodies and also Council members including the present Chair of the Planning Control Committee. The Advisory Committee makes comment/recommendations on all heritage-related development applications and also on Council proposals and draft heritage policy matters.
- 12 There is a formal partnership that oversees the management of the DVMWHS comprising the relevant local authorities, regional bodies and local interests. Day to day activities are undertaken by a WHS Coordinator who is employed by the Derbyshire County Council, but jointly funded by the LA's of the Partnership, at a total cost of £46,000. The structure of the Partnership, including its officer support teams, is currently under review in an effort to secure a more dynamic and proactive form of management to capitalise upon the unique assets of the Site and its potential to become a major economic driver both within the City but also at a regional level, throughout the entire Site. This review is likely to make recommendations in respect of the core functions that will inevitably have cost implications and these will need to be reported in due course.
- 13 In 2004/5, the former Culture and Prosperity Commission undertook a Topic Review of the DVMWHS within Derby. The Commission concluded its review with 5 main recommendations relating to:
  1. Use of the DVMWHS in Derby schools as part of the national curriculum
  2. Provision of sustainable transport link between the city centre and Darley Abbey
  3. A nominated Officer to coordinate the activities of Partnership interests within Derby
  4. Development and promotion of the DVMWHS within Derby
  5. Close working with the owners of Darley Abbey Mills and regeneration of the mill site.

All of these recommendations have been/are being put into effect.

### **The English Heritage Guidance**

- 14 The English Heritage Guidance Note to Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Commissions) is set out as a series of 4 case studies around which a number of supplementary questions/issues are raised. Each Member of the Commission has a copy of the Guidance Note although additional copies will be available at the meeting. This report now follows the same pattern as the Guidance Note and against each case study, a commentary is provided on the situation here in Derby.

### **Case Study 1: Stoke-on-Trent**

- 15 Stoke City Council carried out a Scrutiny Review of the condition of their local conservation areas as a result of which, it was recommended that a Conservation Strategy be produced that makes clear links to the City's Local Area Agreement

(LAA). By mapping out each of the heritage-relevant National Indicators to their conservation strategy, the committee put forward a number of innovative means by which the historic environment could be used to deliver various facets of the City's LAA. The committee identified national indicators which could be delivered by residents' schemes, exhibitions, parks activities and heritage programmes that would bring benefits to the community whilst helping to safeguard the City's heritage assets. This process also led to a recommendation that officers develop a local indicator for conservation which links into one or more of the City's LAA targets with a view to attracting increased funding levels. (There is no indication as to how successful this has been).

16 Other examples within the EH Guidance show how the historic environment can deliver against National Indicator's 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 110.

- to increase the percentage of people from different backgrounds who get on well together in their local area
- to increase the number of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood
- to increase civic participation in the local area
- to increase overall satisfaction with the local area
- to increase the number of those engaged in regular volunteering
- to increase young people's participation in positive activities.

### **Supplementary Questions**

17 *Does the Authority have a Conservation Strategy and, if so, is it up to date?*

Derby does not have an overarching Conservation Strategy although we do have a programme of work linked to local and national indicators as well as planning policy documents within the City of Derby Local Plan. We are currently working on a rolling programme of Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans (a Corporate Plan commitment) which highlight issues within each of the areas, in need of improvement. Due to the resources and capacity available, this proactive work often has to take a back seat to the reactive work that the team are involved with, for example, the Roundhouse project, the Hippodrome, and general planning application responses. However, the information obtained from these Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans could usefully inform any future Conservation Strategy.

18 *Can the Authority produce a local indicator to measure the quality and number of conservation areas?*

A Conservation Strategy could be developed as a Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Document and could form part of the Local Development Framework. It would be possible within this work to cover the range of heritage assets and produce a local indicator, for example, to measure the quality and number of local conservation areas and links could be provided between the Strategy and the City of Derby's LAA. The preparation of such a strategy could not be undertaken within the present limited capacity of the conservation team and further funding in the order of around £8,000 would be required to meet the necessary consultancy costs.



- 19 *If so, how can this be linked to major targets in the Local Area Agreement?*

We do not currently undertake projects/activities designed implicitly to contribute towards these LAA targets although clearly, the careful management of the historic environment will give rise to many of these outcomes and improvements within the City Centre Conservation Area will inevitably raise public satisfaction and additionally, World Heritage Site Discovery Week will have increased the numbers of people engaged in volunteering. Although there may be a fairly tenuous link between some of these indicators and the historic environment, heritage projects and activities can clearly help the Council to meet the obligations of these LAA National Indicators.

### **Case Study 2: Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council**

- 20 Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council undertook a Scrutiny Review of its approach to conservation in 2004 since when it has taken advantage of Heritage Open Days and, through a co-ordinated planning and marketing campaign, has seen visitor numbers rise. 30 sites took part in Heritage Open Days in 2008. Their evaluation of these events has shown that 93% of visitors agreed that learning about the area in which you live can increase your civic pride, 88% thought that community heritage/cultural events can bring people together, a higher proportion of ethnic and disadvantaged groups took part and that over 20% were young people under the age of 14.

### **Supplementary Questions:**

- 21 *Is there an active Heritage Days Open Days Programme in the area? (This will usually be led by the local civic trust or society)*
- 22 *To what extent does the Authority engage with Heritage Open Days?*
- 23 *How many buildings are currently engaged with the local Heritage Open Days programme, and which others may be suitable for inclusion in the future?*
- 24 *How can the programme be developed in order to work towards key objectives, including National Indicators 1,2,3,5 and 6?*
- 25 *Do we need to allocate a dedicated resource to developing Heritage Open Days in the city?*

### **Response**

- 26 Heritage Open Days are the biggest, and thought to be the most popular, voluntary cultural event in England. In Derby there is an active Heritage Open Day programme. During the last event in September 2009, a total 21 individual buildings/activities within the City were part of the event. There was a varied programme ranging from individual historic buildings, museums, churches, the big screen in the Market Place and a complete "Faith Trail". Officers from tourism, conservation and mayoral services were involved in early preparatory work however it was not possible for the conservation team to maintain its involvement due to 2 members of staff being on sick leave at the time. The Authority did engage, to a degree, directly in the event and facilitated the weekend-opening of the civic area of the Council House and of The Guildhall on Heritage Open Days. There is however, the potential to facilitate the opening of further buildings for the scheme and to develop the programme such that it contributes more fully towards national indicators 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. This activity could form part of a future work programme following completion of some current work and

when there may be capacity within the Team. It should be noted however that the local organisation/coordination of Heritage Open Days is not necessarily within the sole remit of the conservation team since staff from a wide range of services including tourism and museums/culture, also have a responsibility towards their success. As noted in the EH guidance, there is also a potential role for the local civic society to become engaged in the event.

- 27 English Heritage has provided much officer-assistance over the last 2 years in organising the Heritage Open Day event in an effort to expand its profile here in Derby. This has included coordinating, funding, and publishing an event leaflet. This EH support however, is for a limited number of years only and alternative arrangements will need to be made if the momentum that has been developed with EH support, is to be maintained. The local coordination function provided by EH has been fundamental to the growth in the event programme over the last 2 years.
- 28 The Built Environment Team has also been involved in Derby City Partnership week and in the past, has run a number of tours and discussions on Derby's Heritage and Design. It has also been involved in events forming part of World Heritage Site Discovery Week. Heritage walks/activities are also organised by many other parts of the Council e.g. the tourism team and the museums service, and also by the Blue Badge Guides.

### **Case Study 3: Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council**

- 29 The Guidance highlights Wolverhampton's experiences of the potential of redundant historic buildings and how in 2004 a scrutiny panel was established to investigate how an increasingly uninhabited historic environment could be used as an impetus for regeneration. The panel sought, through the press and local community, to find new uses for significant numbers of historic buildings which were having an increasingly negative effect upon the City's image. The panel, recognising the need to develop a greater understanding of the historic environment and recommended that character appraisals were undertaken for important sites and areas considered to be at risk.
- 30 Other key recommendations by Wolverhampton's Review were:
- to introduce a procedure to offer meetings at the start of the development process where a developer can discuss proposals with the planning officer, conservation officer, highways etc and gauge the level of support for an application
  - to appoint a Heritage Champion to co-ordinate the Authority's approach to the historic environment
  - to compile a list of key historic assets in need of restoration, repair or mediation which could be presented to developers with a shortlist of potential new uses.

### **Supplementary Questions:**

- 31 *Has the Authority produced an up to date register of unlisted but locally important historic assets in their area?*

The Council commenced a formal review of its list of locally important buildings in January 2007. The review has so far, taken an unexpected amount of Officer time but has now resulted in the Local List Panel recommending that the revised list contain a

total of 252 entries. The review process is now in a lengthy, third-party appeal and Member approval stage and it is doubtful whether the Corporate Plan commitment to complete the review by March 2010, will be met.

- 32 *Has the Authority set out policies in its local development framework which seek, as far as possible, to protect locally important but unlisted historic assets from inappropriate change?*

The saved policies of the City of Derby Local Plan includes a policy (E19) that relates both to statutorily listed buildings and to locally important buildings/structures, including those on the Local List. Although the degree of formal control over demolition of these buildings/structures is far more limited than that relating to listed buildings, this policy is successfully used to protect non-listed buildings and was instrumental in the dismissal of an appeal for the redevelopment of such a building on Bedford Street. It is likely that the forthcoming PPS15 will provide further policy guidance on the protection of local heritage assets.

- 33 *Could the Authority introduce a local indicator to measure the number of heritage assets at risk, including listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments, historic parks and gardens, wrecks, battlefields and conservation area?*

A local indicator that measured the number of heritage assets at risk, (including listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments, historic parks/gardens and conservation areas) could be developed although the nature/degree of risk would need to be quantified for the indicator to be of most benefit. The presence of such an indicator however, could provide a basis for future criticism of the Council if it was to be unable to resource/influence the improvement of heritage assets recorded as being at risk.

- 34 *Has the Authority consulted the local population on their views of the state of the historic environment?*

The City Council has not consulted the public on their views of the state of the historic environment specifically although a public consultation exercise by the Derby City Partnership, in preparation of the present Sustainable Community Strategy did highlight the protection of Derby's cultural heritage and green spaces as being the highest public priority.

- 35 *Have planning staff carried out an urban characterisation studies on important historic sites that may be at risk?*

Conservation Plans rather than Urban Characterisation Studies, have been prepared for major heritage sites including The Roundhouse complex and St Helens House. The current Darley Abbey study will also provide a full and proper context in which the future of the historic buildings can be considered in an appropriately informed manner.

**Further Comment:**

- 36 English Heritage produces annually, a Buildings at Risk register of grade I and grade II\* buildings identified as being at serious of disuse/disrepair. We have 6 entries of these high graded buildings at risk on the EH national register although none are in the most serious risk category; St Helen's House, 3 buildings at the Roundhouse complex, Long Mill at Darley Abbey and Allestree Hall. The 3 buildings at the Roundhouse will be removed from the register next year as they are now fully

restored and in use by Derby College. St Helen's House is in the course of repair and should also soon fall off the at-risk register. Discussions with a potential developer are on-going with regard to Allestree Hall and the Long Mill at Darley Abbey is being addressed through the Darley Abbey Regeneration Strategy.

- 37 A Buildings at Risk Survey of our grade II listed buildings is being undertaken although those known to be at risk have been prioritised and their condition is periodically monitored. This survey does not extend to the locally listed buildings although each of these will have been visited as part of the Local List review process and those in jeopardy could be quickly identified. The grade II buildings at risk have been notified to the Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust and to Save Britain's Heritage both of which, publicise on the web. There is no formal process for pairing these at-risk buildings with potential new uses although advice is freely available to potential developers. Our present inability to offer any sort of grant aid as a stimulus to the repair/reuse of listed buildings makes it all the more difficult to deal with these at-risk buildings in a comprehensive manner although alternative means are sought such as at Darley Abbey where external emda funding has been secured to undertake a major study including the heritage buildings at risk.
- 38 English Heritage has also recently launched a Heritage at Risk campaign which not only looked at grade I & II\* buildings at risk in each Local Planning Authority but also, for the first time this year, at "Conservation Areas at Risk". EH used a database of questions to assess how effective the conservation areas were being managed but due to a technical error in the first year of this data collection, the results showed that Derby had 6 conservation areas at risk. This matter has been taken up with English Heritage.
- 39 The City of Derby's Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest (Listed Buildings) dates from 1977 and is probably one of the oldest in the country. Although from time to time there have been additions and updates to the existing entries, there is an urgent need for the Listing Branch of English Heritage on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to consider undertaking a review of the list and a resurvey of the buildings of the city to ensure all those that meet the listing criteria are included on the statutory list. Our current review of locally listed buildings should be of much assistance to English Heritage in any future review of our statutory list.
- 40 In accordance with government advice, Council Officers provide pre-application advice to prospective applicants although a charge is made in respect of larger developments. A development Team approach is adopted and coordinated by the Development Control staff but always includes members of the Built Environment Team whenever appropriate.
- 41 The Council does not currently have a Heritage Champion amongst the Council Members although we do have a Cabinet Member with specific responsibility for listed buildings, Cabinet Member Cllr J Naitta. Cabinet Member Cllr Lucy Care has responsibility for general planning matters.

#### **Case Study 4: Cornwall County Council**

- 42 Cornwall County Council wanted to improve their leadership of the historic environment in order to identify what it contributes to Cornwall's cultural offer. The scrutiny panel suggested that the archaeology, museum collections, publications and

archive services were brought together and operated under one Joint Heritage Plan which integrated the full range of services. They examined the educational potential of their heritage assets and developed a range of recommendations designed to improve heritage education services across the County focussed on web based educational resources and the employment of a Heritage Education Officer who developed educational resources for schools and community alike.

- 43 Cornwall's Scrutiny Panel also produced a document that looked at the relationship between heritage and a wide range of Council activities and set out recommendations on how relationships could be improved. The final report was used to inform future documents and as a tool to inform the production of Sustainable Community Strategies, Local Area Agreements and other important policies.

**Supplementary Questions:**

- 44 *Does the Local Authority have a clear idea about the benefits which local heritage can contribute to our core aims and strategies?*
- 45 *Is the local historic environment taken into account of in key documents such as the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement?*

**Response:**

- 46 The present Sustainable Community Strategy specifically notes the value of the city's past as being one of its distinctive characters and the future protection and enhancement of heritage would seem to be inherent in the overall 2020 Vision. The actions of the Strategy however are somewhat silent on matters of detail over the potential role of the historic environment in delivering the vision. The next review of the Sustainable Community Strategy will provide an opportunity for heritage to be more firmly embedded as a central theme should this be the committed approach of the Council. The historic environment is likely to be a key issue addressed in the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework.
- 47 As previously discussed, the Local Area Agreement indicators do not directly link to local heritage. There are currently no national and local indicators for monitoring the "health" of local heritage although the Council has adopted 2 measures in its Corporate Plan (completion of Conservation Area Appraisals and the Local List Review) as local indicators. The Government is looking at options for measuring the quality of place (including the treatment of historic buildings and sites) with a view to introducing national indicators in due course.

**How can the Historic Environment contribute more toward our Authority's main strategic aims?**

- 48 The preparation of the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework will provide the opportunity for the Council to determine the role of the historic environment in the future development of the city, especially within the city centre, and then to express this within the detailed policies that will subsequently follow. The historic environment is presently well-represented in the City of Derby Local Plan and it is likely that this level of importance within the planning framework will at least be maintained within the emerging Core Strategy to be published next year.

- 49 Within the planning policies relating to the historic environment, there is clearly much scope for heritage assets to contribute towards the strategic aims of the City Council:
- make us proud of our neighbourhoods
  - create a 21<sup>st</sup> Century city centre
  - lead Derby towards a better environment
  - support everyone in learning and achieving
  - help us all to be healthy, active and independent
  - give you excellent services and value for money.
- 50 There is much documentary and practical evidence at the national level as to how good, constructive conservation can be a major driver in economic regeneration and urban renaissance. The previously cited government publications all contain references to the potential positive role of the historic environment in creating successful and sustainable developments. Indeed, here in Derby, improvements to historic buildings in the city centre through various grant schemes, the historic character of the Cathedral Quarter, Cathedral Green, the Cathedral Quarter Hotel and the Roundhouse are all recent examples of how the historic environment is contributing towards the successful regeneration of the city and to these strategic aims of the Council. There is much scope for other heritage assets in the city to make similar levels of contribution provided that their development is dealt with in an appropriate, sensitive manner in full accord with the prevailing planning/conservation policies.

#### **How is the Authority protecting key historic assets for future generations?**

- 51 The saved policies of the current City of Derby Local Plan provide the present local framework for the protection of the historic environment although this needs also be read in conjunction with Government policy (PPG 15/16) and English Heritage Guidance. The Government is committed to reforming heritage protection measures and published a draft Bill in April 2008. Due to a shortage of parliamentary time, the Bill has not yet been taken forward but nonetheless and in the meantime, the Government has published a draft revised policy statement on the historic environment, PPS15.
- 52 In advance of new primary legislation, it is hoped that the new PPS will go some way towards a more effective way of protecting the nation's historic places. The reforms aim to place heritage at the heart of the planning system. Some of the changes to the heritage protection regime have already taken place. Others will progress following the adoption of the new policy statement and the remainder following enactment of the Heritage Protection Bill.

#### **Conclusion**

- 53 The English Heritage guidance note quotes many disparate examples of good practice of how the historic environment is managed/used by other authorities. Having reviewed each of these in the context of our activities here at Derby, it is clear that we already employ many aspects of this good practice and the general healthy condition of our historic environment is testimony to its good management.
- 54 Of course there are instances where further improvements could be made within the conservation service however, given the resource constraints in terms of both staff

and budgets, such improvements can only be considered when there is the appropriate capacity or if additional funding is made available. In the current budgetary situation, it would clearly be inappropriate to put forward proposals with significant cost implications however there are a number of areas that could nonetheless be addressed.

- 55 The outdated nature of the statutory list of listed buildings is often a cause of tension and whilst the local listing of a historic building provides a degree of protection, it is inadequate to protect valuable interiors for example which would form part of it's listable qualities. The emerging local list of important historic buildings will provide a focus for any future English Heritage review of the statutory list which needs to be encouraged.
- 56 The recognition of the potential of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site to be a major economic driver for the City, in accordance with the recommendation of the former Culture and Prosperity Commission, will help place this prime heritage asset at the heart of the Council's strategic aims. The preparation of the LDF Core Strategy and future reviews of the Sustainable Community Strategy will provide the opportunity for the Council to consider the role of the wider historic development within its main strategic aims/ objectives.
- 57 The lack of revenue budgetary provision to enable grant aid to be offered to assist building repair/enhancement greatly limits the means by which buildings at risk can be successfully addressed. In the absence of such a budget, it is all the more important that every opportunity is taken to identify/secure any form of external funding and to assist private-sector owners by alternative ways.
- 58 Heritage Open Days are a potential means of pursuing some of our LAA indicators and further assistance could be provided by the conservation team to help develop these further, especially whilst English Heritage is prepared to maintain it's current support. Without such EH support however, alternative funding and a local coordinator will both need to be found if the programme of events is to be maintained.

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**Background papers:**

Report of the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services to the Planning and Transportation Commission 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009, REVIEW OF BUILDINGS OF HERITAGE AND IMPORTANCE.  
<http://cmis.derby.gov.uk/CMISWebPublic/Binary.ashx?Document=13893>  
Making the Most of Your Local Heritage: A Guide for Overview and Scrutiny Committees – English Heritage 2009  
<http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/MMYLH.pdf?1259747717>  
Local Area Agreements and the Historic Environment – English Heritage 2008 (also at <http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/LAA.pdf>)