

Conservation and Development Plan for St Helens House, King Street, Derby

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To note and receive the draft Conservation and Development Plan for the site of St Helens House as prepared by Anthony Short and Partners and to make any comment that the Committee may consider appropriate on the content of the draft plan.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The views of the Conservation Area Advisory Committee are sought on the draft Plan to help ensure that the final Conservation and Development Plan enjoys widespread support in its purpose of providing a thorough basis for the consideration of alternative new uses for this important building.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The grade I listed St Helens House is owned by the City Council but after many years in use as an Adult Education Centre, it is now vacant and considered to be surplus to the Council's requirements. The building appears on the English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register.
- 3.2 As a means of providing a thorough basis for the consideration of alternative new uses for this important building, the City Council has commissioned the preparation of a Conservation and Development Plan from Anthony Short and Partners of Ashbourne. A full copy of the draft document has already been provided to each member of the Committee for their individual perusal.
- 3.3 Members of the Committee are requested to note that this document is very much a draft that has yet to be confirmed and formally considered by the Council. The particular attention of Members is drawn to the suggestion that St Helens House be included within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. This issue was formally considered in the preparation of the WHS bid document. However it was concluded by the DCMS, advised by ICOMOS UK, that there was insufficient justification for its inclusion. It is considered unlikely that the research underpinning this draft Conservation Plan has

generated any new evidence that would lead to a different conclusion in this regard. In any event, changes to the WHS boundary are not the prerogative of the Council or the Government.

- 3.4 Officers will be available at the meeting of the Committee to clarify any aspects of the document.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

For more information contact:	Harry Hopkinson Tel. 01332 255061 email
Background papers:	harry.hopkinson@derby.gov.uk
List of appendices:	Draft Conservation and Development Plan prepared by Anthony Short and Partners Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1.1 None at this stage

Legal

2.1 None at this stage

Personnel

3.1 None.

Equalities impact

4.1 None.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5.1 The restoration of St Helens House will contribute towards the Council's Objectives of a great place to live and a sustainable environment, and the priority of improving the physical environment of our city and streets.