

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** Conservation Advisory Group  
Conservation, Sustainability &  
Community Planning Portfolio Holder

**AUTHOR/S:** Conservation Manager

8<sup>th</sup> June 2005

### CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS

#### Purpose

1. To request that members of the Conservation Advisory Group set up a small task/finish sub-group to meet with officers in order to review emerging drafts for new Conservation Area Appraisals over the coming year.

#### Effect on Corporate Objectives

2. Quality, Accessible Services	The Conservation Area Appraisals will be used as local design guides and therefore assist in achieving the Council's aim of improved design standards and the delivery of a high quality planning service. Conservation Area Appraisals are now a Best Value Performance Indicator for all district councils.
Village Life	The Conservation Area Appraisals will have a significant impact on the enhancement of village life by ensuring that new development in historic environments is both appropriate to its context and of demonstrable quality.
Sustainability	The Conservation Area Appraisals will provide a valuable resource in ensuring the delivery of new sustainable development.
Partnership	The Conservation Area Appraisals will be a useful resource for both the District Council and the relevant Parish Councils.

#### Background

3. Last year the Conservation Advisory Group appointed a task/finish sub group comprising the Chairman, Vice-chairman and three other members to meet with David Grech, the Conservation Area and Design Officer and Shona Smith, Conservation Assistant. The purpose was to review the draft appraisals prepared by consultants on behalf of SCDC for the Conservation Areas at Longstanton Oakington and Westwick, together with a draft appraisal for the proposed new Conservation Area at Rampton. The outcome of this process resulted in a number of modifications being requested from the consultants' prior to embarking on public consultation on these new appraisals. There is a need to re-establish this group to look at the Conservation Areas Appraisals that will be prepared over the course of the coming year, particularly in the light of the newly established Best Value Performance Indicator on Conservation Area Appraisals.

#### Considerations

4. In the current year it is proposed to bring forward a further set of new Conservation Area Appraisals. 4 appraisals are currently being prepared by consultants' (Horningsea, Fen Ditton, Swavesey and Teversham) with 4 appraisals being

prepared in house (Duxford Airfield, Little Gransden, Girton and Great Shelford). The structure of these new appraisals will follow that established last year for the first series of appraisals.

5. In order to avoid unnecessary delays in preparing these appraisals for public consultation it is desirable to have a small working party of members who can meet with the officers at mutually agreed times to consider the emerging draft appraisals. The consideration will include examining any recommendations for revising the boundaries of the Conservation Areas as well as the clarity and completeness of the documents.

### **Options**

6. The Conservation Advisory Group are requested to:
  - a) Establish a small task/finish sub-group to meet with the officers to consider the emerging Conservation Area Appraisals; or
  - b) To require officers to bring all emerging draft appraisals to the full Conservation Advisory Group for consideration at their next appropriate meeting.

### **Financial Implications**

7. None specific.

### **Legal Implications**

8. The Conservation Area Appraisals are to be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document in support of the Local Development Framework and the statutory Local Plan.

### **Staffing Implications**

9. None specific.

### **Risk Management Implications**

10. Requiring all draft appraisals to be tabled for consideration by the full Conservation Advisory Group may result in delays in their production, resulting in the Council failing to meet the declared targets for new Conservation Area Appraisals in the current year. This might in turn impact on future Planning Delivery Grant allocations to this Council.

### **Consultations**

11. Following consideration by the sub-group and officers, the revised draft appraisals will be brought to the next appropriate meeting of the Conservation Advisory Group to seek their agreement to undertake a consultation exercise on the draft appraisals. This process will include the local District Council Member(s), the relevant Parish Council, appropriate amenity bodies, department colleagues, as well as members of the public residing within the relevant Conservation Areas.

### **Conclusions/Summary**

12. Establishing a small task/finish sub-group to meet with officers basis is considered to be the most effective way of progressing the production of appraisals, while at the same time ensuring the emerging drafts are subject to adequate scrutiny.

### **Recommendations**

13. The Conservation Advisory Group is requested to establish a small task/finish sub-group to meet with officers, as necessary, to consider emerging drafts for new Conservation Area Appraisals during the course of the year.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: None specific.

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