

Subject:	Conservation Strategy 2016-2021	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	9 th March 2016
Report of:	Conservation Officer	Portfolio Holder:	Operational Services and Development Control
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	Initial assessment
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required: No	Attached:	No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	That Cabinet approve the Conservation strategy 2016-2021.
1.2	All future minor amendments to the Conservation Strategy 2016-2021 to be delegated to the Planning Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To introduce the Conservation Strategy 2016-2021 which outlines the proposed work plan of the Rossendale Borough Council Conservation Officer, and that Cabinet approve the strategy.
- 2.2 The Conservation Strategy 2016-2021 is appended to this report (Appendix 1). The 2010-2015 Conservation Strategy is included as Appendix 3, along with a summary of completed tasks, achievements and tasks to be taken forward in a Summary of the 2010-2015 Strategy (Appendix 2).

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **Regenerating Rossendale:** This priority focuses on regeneration in its broadest sense, so it means supporting communities that get on well together, attracting sustainable investment, promoting Rossendale, as well as working as an enabler to promote the physical regeneration of Rossendale.
 - **Responsive Value for Money Services:** This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
- There is a risk that the Conservation Officer will not be able to complete all tasks set out in the strategy due to resource constraints, and or unforeseen changes in priorities due to national and local changes in circumstances. The Conservation Officer will review the strategy periodically with the Planning Manager to ensure this risk is reduced, and the strategy includes a realistic list of tasks, based on the required statutory functions.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 In February 2010 Cabinet adopted the Conservation Strategy for the role of Rossendale Borough Council's Principal Part-time Conservation Officer and a full-time trainee.
- 5.2 The strategy appended to this report (Appendix 1) reflects the expected workload of one conservation officer on a 5 day per week basis, and the five year time scale reflects that the resource allocation may shift according to the needs of the Council.
- 5.3 The role of the Conservation Officer fulfils several statutory functions required by the Council, chiefly that the Council must have access to conservation-based planning advice in having special regard to its statutory duties in considering planning applications set out in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, and to provide conservation advice to the Council in respect of listed buildings, listed buildings at risk, planning enforcement action, and contribute to the formulation of conservation-based planning policies in formulation of the Local Plan, which must demonstrate how the historic environment will be conserved and enhanced through its policies and site allocations.
- 5.4 A critical assessment of the 2010 strategy reveals that some tasks programmed in the strategy are no longer necessary (Appendix 2) , allowing the Conservation Officer to focus on the most beneficial tasks, whilst still providing a valuable, efficient service to the community and the Council. The strategy adopted in 2010 is appended to this report (Appendix 3).

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 6.1 It is assumed that any financial implications arising will be contained within existing budget resources.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

- 7.1 All legal implications are included within the body of the report.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 8.1 There are no policy or human resource implications. An equality impact assessment has been carried out which did not raise any areas for consideration.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The Conservation Strategy 2016-2021 focusses on key beneficial areas of work that will have the most benefit for the borough and the Council. The priorities included in the strategy reflect ongoing tasks and necessary future projects, and ensure that the Council can fulfil its statutory obligations set out in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Background Papers

Document	Place of Inspection
Conservation strategy 2016-2021	Appendix 1
Summary of Conservation Strategy 2010-2015	Appendix 2
Conservation Strategy 2010-2015	Appendix 3
Equality Impact Assessment	Appendix 4