

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 14 July 2020

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Draft Heritage Strategy for consultation

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? Short term

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Councillor Mike Morey, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture and Swithin Long, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Torbay has fascinating history and rich cultural heritage. The entire area is internationally recognised as the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, and our inshore coastline is a Marine Conservation Zone. Torbay is home to part of the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) along with multiple Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Historic Parks and Gardens, historic sailing vessels and outstanding museum and archive collections.
- 1.2 Torbay's current Heritage Strategy dates from 2011. It was not formally adopted by Torbay Council and has never been reviewed. Numerous changes have impacted the culture and heritage sector since that time; there also have been significant political changes locally and nationally, and cultural developments on the ground in the bay.
- 1.3 This Strategy is the result of a significant review of heritage in the bay. It was conducted by lead consultant Katherine Findlay at Heritage Arts & People, on behalf of Torbay Council, with advice and support from Council officers, TDA and Torbay Culture. The process continued over several months involving local residents, partner organisation, elected Council members, officers and services. It has also taken place during the global Covid-19 pandemic and at a time of great change in the strategic funding context.
- 1.4 The purpose of the strategy is to clarify Torbay Council's approach to heritage, and to enable the Council to confirm and develop plans for specific locations. The new document sets out statutory requirements (e.g. Listed Buildings, Conservation Area Appraisals, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and non-designated heritage assets). The aim will also be ensure accessibility to a wide readership.

- 1.5 It aligns with local ambitions which are expressed principally through Torbay Together's vision, and complemented by plans and strategies including the *Torbay Economic Strategy 2017-22*, *English Riviera Destination Management Plan 2017-21*, and *Enjoy, talk, do, be: a cultural strategy for Torbay and its communities 2014-24*.
- 1.6 It will be closely linked to the Local Plan review and its key policies, helping build the infrastructure for positive change. The launch of the High Streets Heritage Action Zones [HSHAZ] shows the Government's commitment to historic high streets and realising the potential of our heritage assets. The Strategy therefore also reflects local ambition for renewal of the towns' centres and future funding bids. We recognise there are many competing priorities for limited resources. Part of this process has been to consider how to prioritise heritage, including assets currently on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.
- 1.7 The timetable for the review is as follows:
- Expressions of Interest and commission – December 2019
 - Research and writing – February to May 2020
 - Three week public consultation by questionnaire – February
 - Stakeholder meetings and event – February and March
 - Asset scoring and review - March
 - Draft Strategy available – May
 - Four week consultation - July
 - Adoption by Cabinet - September

2. Reasons for Proposal

2.1 This is an overarching document that focuses and co-ordinates a number of key recommendations including; a clear set of objectives for managing and protecting heritage assets, it is a tool to involve and inspire key partners and stakeholders, attract visitors and support our economy and respond to climate change whilst recognising our wide ranging internationally recognised heritage.

2.2 At this stage no financial commitments are identified as part of this report.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- (i) To recommend the Cabinet approve the Heritage Strategy for a formal four week consultation launch in July 2020 and present the consultation results to future a Cabinet meeting.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Heritage Strategy

Background Documents

[National Planning Policy Guidance \(NPPF\)](#)

[Torbay Local Plan](#)
[Neighbourhood Plans](#)
[Torbay Conservation Area Appraisals](#)

Supporting Information:

1. Background:

- 1.1 The Heritage Strategy forms part of the Council's Policy Framework, setting out the Council's ambitions, aims and objectives. As part of its commitment to changing how the Council engages with its residents, communities and partners (and in line with the Council's Constitution), the draft Strategy has been subject to early informal public consultation.
- 1.2 The next stage will be formal four week consultation. Having completed the consultation exercise with the wider community in Torbay the draft Heritage Strategy will be updated to reflect any relevant and appropriate feedback provided by the public, partner organisations and other stakeholders.
- 1.3 The expectation is that the Strategy will be adopted by Members in September.

2. Alternative Options:

- 2.1 The existing Strategy is out of date and was never adopted. A new Strategy is required to reflect the current situation.

3. Contribution to delivery of Council's priorities:

- 3.1 This Council's ambition is:

We want Torbay and its residents to thrive.

We want Torbay to be a place where we have turned the tide on poverty and tackled inequalities; where our children and older people will have high aspirations and where there are quality jobs, good pay and affordable housing for our residents.

We want Torbay to be the premier resort in the UK, with a vibrant arts and cultural offer for our residents and visitors to enjoy; where our built and natural environment is celebrated and where we play our part in addressing the climate change emergency.

- 3.2 The proposals in this report will support:

- thriving people; access to heritage and culture can contribute to improved health and wellbeing. The strategy will contribute to creating positive places.
- thriving economy; there is significant change in the strategic funding context. The strategy will support key funding bids. Attracting new and younger visitors and lengthening the tourist season are fundamentally important to Torbay's future economy. This strategy puts heritage at the centre of our visitor offer for the first time.
- tackling climate change; this strategy considers both the risks to historic assets and how we can decarbonise the way we work at and visit heritage sites.
- Council fit for the future; Torbay Council and TDA own and manage a range of historic sites and we support the wider heritage sector across the bay. This strategy aims to strengthen the sector and explains our priorities for key locations.

4. Financial Implications:

- 4.1 The proposal contained in this report do not commit the Council financially.
- 4.2 There is no direct budgetary implication with the preparation of the Strategy itself, however it does set out a timetable and resource implications.

5. Legal Implications:

- 5.1 No legal implications.

6. Consultation:

- 6.1 A wide range of research has been undertaken with data gathered from a three week stakeholder questionnaire. Various stakeholder events and meetings also took place. Overall, the process involved consultation with local residents, partner organisation, elected Council members, officers and services. Key stakeholders included Historic England, English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, National Lottery Heritage Fund and National Trust.
- 6.2 More formal, four week consultation will enable the public and key groups to see their comments reflected in the final document. The consultation will be carried out on line and by contacting those individuals involved.
- 6.3 The research and data gathering enabled the team to understand the management of existing heritage assets and prioritise recommendations for their future.

7. Risks:

No expected risks.

8. Public Services Value (Social Value) Act 2012

Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services.

If the proposal requires:

- the procurement of services or
- the provision of services together with the purchase or hire of goods or
- the carrying out of works

then you have a legal duty to consider the Public Services Value (Social Value) Act 2012. This places a responsibility on public sector organisations to consider social value in service contracts, or where there is a service element in goods or works contracts. It gives us the opportunity to consider, and give weighting to in procurements, any additional community benefits that could be achieved (outside the scope of the procurement). These benefits should link wherever possible to the Community & Corporate Plan and be reviewed as part of contract performance reviews. It is recommended that you obtain further advice or guidance on Social Value and the completion of this section from the Procurement Team. Please outline what considerations have been made (including any consultation) or the reason why you have not included Social Value in this proposal. Example - In a contract for Building works we may ask bidders to show how they would - Promote Local Skills & Employment – They may as part of their bid make a commitment to recruiting at least 10% of new recruits in the next 12months from people who have been

in long term unemployment. This is of no direct benefit to the bid for building works but is of “added Social Value to Torbay”.

Equality Impacts

15.	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups		
	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people			There is no differential impact
People with caring Responsibilities			There is no differential impact
People with a disability			There is no differential impact
Women or men			There is no differential impact
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) <i>(Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)</i>			There is no differential impact
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			There is no differential impact
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			There is no differential impact
People who are transgendered			There is no differential impact
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			There is no differential impact
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			There is no differential impact

	Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)			There is no differential impact
	Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			There is no differential impact
16.	Cumulative Impacts – Council wide (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	No		
17.	Cumulative Impacts – Other public services (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	No		