

Malmesbury Conservation Area Statement

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To inform the Committee of the progress in the production of proposals for the preservation and enhancement of Malmesbury Conservation Area, in accordance with Section 71 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. **The Malmesbury Conservation Area Statement 'Consultation Draft – January 2006' be approved for the purposes of consultation in accordance with Section 71 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.**

3. Links to the corporate/business area objectives

- 3.1. Conservation Area Statements contain proposals to conserve and enhance the District's built environment and landscape setting and assets and resources, protect and promote the local distinctiveness of North Wiltshire's heritage, and are prepared in consultation with other local organisations and Councils. The proposed enhancements within the streetscene accord with the District Council's 2005-6 Corporate Priorities of Cleaner, Safer and Better Streets, and Partnership Working; and the Wiltshire Strategic Partnership's priority theme of *Improving Wiltshire's Streetscene*.
- 3.2. Business Area Common Objectives: Progressing the Malmesbury Conservation Area Statement will maintain performance against the agreed Urban Design work programme 2005-6 and the Local Development Scheme (LDS) programme.

4. Background Information

- 4.1. The Planning Authority has a duty to prepare proposals for preservation and enhancement for its designated Conservation Areas which North Wiltshire District Council does through its Conservation Area Statements. The Malmesbury Conservation Area Statement is identified for production in the North Wiltshire Local Development Scheme (LDS). The finalised Statement is proposed to be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which will identify an action plan of prioritised 'Enhancement Proposals' throughout the Conservation Area and contain 'Development Guidelines' to secure the preservation of important features of the Conservation Area.
- 4.2. A voluntary Working Group was first set up in 2002 to progress research and analysis. The Group comprised members of the existing Malmesbury Conservation Area Liaison Group.

5. Current Position

- 5.1. It is considered that the document is now sufficiently finalised for the purposes of a consultation draft; to take account of further comment from the public, utility companies, County and Town Councils, English Heritage, other local and regional amenity bodies and representatives. Consultation will be in accordance with this Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which includes the production of a Sustainability Appraisal for the document. This will generally take

the form of making the document available via the Council's website, distributing the document to and informing relevant interested parties, an exhibition at a local public venue for the week prior to the holding of a public meeting in Malmesbury. Copies of the Statement will be made available for viewing at the District and Town Council offices and the library. A poster and press release will be produced to advertise the exhibition and public meeting. Following this and a period for receipt of comments, a revised Statement is intended to be presented to the Public Spaces and Local Plans Panel for eventual adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document to the Local Development Framework by the Executive Committee.

- 5.2. A full colour copy of the proposed Consultation Draft Malmesbury Conservation Area Statement (which is over 100 pages in length) will be available for inspection in the Members Resources Room at the District Council offices from Monday 16th January 2006. Copies will also be distributed to the Committee Chairman and Malmesbury Town Council.
- 5.3. The Consultation Draft Malmesbury Conservation Area Statement is a draft working document, and as such contains some text in differing colours to identify areas of revision to date and areas of the document that will be completed during the consultation stage. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) of this type should amplify or apply Local Plan policies at the local level. Therefore the Development Guidelines and Enhancement Proposals have been cross-references to relevant Local Plan policies.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The Action Plan within the Conservation Area Statement identifies and prioritises a number of enhancements. It is intended that some of these may form the basis for allocation of available enhancement funding and for future bids to the Area Committee and/or other bodies for partnership funding.
- 6.2. Graphic design for the final printed Statement and associated leaflet will be prepared in-house. The proposed design and format will be able to be viewed as part of the exhibition. Printing of the statement is expected to be done in-house with existing printing facilities from team revenue printing budgets.

7. Human Resources and Equal Opportunities implications

- 7.1. Progressing the Malmesbury Conservation Area Statement is within the Urban Design work programme and therefore progressing them will have no impact upon internal human resources. The Design and Estates Team have temporarily appointed new staff to the Urban Designer post, which was vacated in July 2005.

8. Community and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. Conservation Area Statements contain proposals to conserve and enhance the District's built environment and landscape setting, to protect and promote the local distinctiveness of North Wiltshire's heritage for the community.

Documents Used in Preparing this Report

Reports and Minutes of previous NWDC Committees.

**REPORT FROM THE DESIGN AND ESTATES TEAM LEADER TO AREA 1
COMMITTEE 25TH JANUARY 2006**

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