

Title: **Adoption of the Revised Character Assessment for Bradford on Avon Conservation Area.**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Phillips OBE- Planning and Development.**

Reporting Officer: **Russell Brown - Conservation Officer**

Key Decision: **No**

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### **Purpose**

To consider the responses to the consultation exercise on the draft revised conservation area character assessment for Bradford on Avon and to agree to its adoption as a background information document.

### **Background**

As part of their conservation responsibilities, Councils are required to review their conservation areas and prepare management strategies for each one. As part of this process for Bradford on Avon conservation area:

- The revised boundaries were approved at an earlier Cabinet meeting in September 2006.
- Cabinet agreed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2007 to send the draft revised character assessment out for public consultation in line with the guidelines of the Statement of Community Involvement. The consultation period started on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007 and finished on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

### **Key Issues**

The draft assessment has been amended to reflect the results of the consultation exercise. The PPG has also agreed to these changes. A final version of the draft has been placed in the Members Room for inspection.

### **Consultation Exercise**

The results of the consultation exercise are set out in the attached appendix. There were no objections received. Most of the factual amendments requested were in the form of corrections or further information of relevance to the document and have been made. The main amendments to the text are highlighted in yellow in the version in the Members room.

## **Next Steps**

- The programme of review of the existing conservation areas within the District is ongoing. The current status with this programme is that Trowbridge and Warminster town centres together with Bradford on Avon have up-to-date conservation area boundaries and character assessments. Management strategies for each of these towns need to be prepared. Westbury and Melksham town centre boundaries need to be reviewed and character assessments produced.

## **Effect on Strategies and Codes**

The Bradford on Avon CACA will support:

- Improving the market towns by identifying the character and important elements in the conservation area where improvements should be targeted.
- Improving Development Control decisions by providing DC Officers with guidance to assist them in determining applications.
- Existing policy's within the Local Development Framework and adopted Supplementary Policy Guidance.

## **Risk Management Implications**

- There are no risks involved in adopting this character assessment.

## **Finance Implications**

- There are no financial implications for the adoption of the character assessment.
- Clear guidance can be used to influence the Historic Buildings and areas on how to prioritise the grant allocation based on this area of work.

## **Legal and Human Rights Issues**

There are no legal or human rights implications that will be affected by this assessment.

## **Recommendations**

**That Cabinet adopts the revised Conservation Area Character Assessment for Bradford on Avon.**

## **Background Papers**

File Reference: Bradford on Avon Conservation Area Review.

File Location: Planning Policy and Conservation Section.

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

PPG15 Planning and the Historic Environment. 1994.

Recent Guidelines on Conservation Areas published by English Heritage.