

Title: **Review of Trowbridge Town Centre Conservation Area**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Osborn - Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development**

Reporting Officer: **Caroline Power, Conservation Officer**

Purpose

To note the decisions already made by Cabinet and endorse them.

Background

The Council's Conservation Strategy states that all the existing conservation areas in the District should be reviewed and character assessments for each one should be produced. This work is in accordance with national guidance for managing conservation areas. In addition, target indicators have recently been issued by the government that require the monitoring of the annual production of conservation area assessments produced by councils.

At Council on 5th January 2005, a report was approved for the timetabling of the conservation area assessments. This prioritised the five historic towns.

Trowbridge Town Centre Conservation Area is the first to be assessed. An initial report was taken to Cabinet in February where it was agreed that a Planning Policy Group should be set up for the purposes of assisting in the review of the conservation area and in the production of the assessment. The PPG has met twice since that date and have both agreed the process for reviewing the boundaries of the conservation area and that public consultation should take place on this matter.

A further report was taken to Cabinet in June 2005 with the proposed alterations to the conservation area boundaries. Cabinet recommended that a period of consultation should take place with reasonable efforts made to contact all owners and occupants who would be affected by the boundary changes. It was also agreed to rename the conservation area as Trowbridge Town Centre Conservation Area. The consultation period (Stage 1) started on the 15th July and finished on the 25th August. The results of the consultation will be brought to the next Council on the 9th November. It is envisaged that a further less comprehensive consultation process (Stage 2) will take place for the draft assessment, once Council have been able to make a formal decision on the amended boundaries.

Main Issues

Cabinet Decisions

From the two meetings to date the following matters need to be endorsed by Council;

- The establishment of the PPG.
- The re-naming of the conservation area to Trowbridge Town Centre Conservation Area.
- The public consultation exercise carried out on the proposed boundary amendments for the conservation area.

Financial implications:

Costs are contained within the existing resources of the Planning Policy and Conservation Service.

Legal Implications:

There are no immediate legal implications.

Recommendations:

To endorse the Cabinet's decisions from February and June 05.

Human rights:

There are no implications.

Background papers

File Reference: Trowbridge 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.
PPS1 Local Development Frameworks
Council Agenda and Minutes 5/1/05.

Plain English

Date of Preparation of Report 12/8/05