



## CABINET REPORT

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>PREPARATION OF A LOCAL HERITAGE LIST FOR NORTHAMPTON</b>
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**AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC**

<b>Cabinet Meeting Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Within Policy:</b>	Yes
<b>Policy Document:</b>	Yes
<b>Directorate:</b>	Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning
<b>Accountable Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Tim Hadland
<b>Wards</b>	All

### 1. Purpose

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- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to commence the preparation of a Local Heritage List for Northampton, including the approval of selection criteria and the establishment of a panel to consider and recommend entries for inclusion on the list.

### 2. Recommendations

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It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approve the preparation of a Local Heritage List for Northampton;
- 2.2 Approve the draft selection criteria for evaluation of suggested entries for inclusion on a Local Heritage List (Appendix A),
- 2.3 Approve the establishment of a Local Heritage Selection Panel to consider and recommend to Cabinet for adoption those heritage assets that meet the criteria for inclusion on a Local Heritage List,

- 2.4 Delegate authority to the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning, to establish a Local Heritage Selection Panel and to finalise the Panel's terms of reference (Appendix B),
- 2.5 Approve the commencement of public consultation to invite nominations of heritage assets for inclusion on a Local Heritage List (Appendix C).

### **3. Issues and Choices**

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#### **3.1 Report Background**

- 3.1.1 Northampton has over 500 buildings and monuments that are statutorily listed as being of special architectural or historic interest and 7 scheduled monuments that are protected through national legislation. In addition, there are 21 conservation areas. However, there are many other buildings, monuments and areas of open space that are of historic or architectural interest or are valued by the local community that do not meet the strict criteria for national designation but which make a significant contribution to Northampton's distinctive character and appearance.
- 3.1.2 A Local Heritage List is a register of buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes that have been identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions but which are not formally designated heritage assets. The Council adopted a Local List of Buildings of Importance within the town centre in 1993 and has a list of candidate buildings within conservation areas. It is now proposed to undertake a review of the town's non-designated heritage assets with the aim of publishing a Local Heritage List for the whole of the borough.
- 3.1.3 The preparation of a Local Heritage List is in accordance with guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which advises that local planning authorities should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment in their Local Plan. The NPPF also requires local authorities to identify and assess the significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a planning proposal. The inclusion of a local heritage asset on the list would not bring any additional form of statutory protection but would be a material planning consideration when the Council considers planning applications that may affect a heritage asset and would help to inform future planning decisions. The list would also recognise and help promote Northampton's distinctive character and quality.
- 3.1.4 Entries on a Local Heritage List are defined as "non-designated heritage assets" at national planning policy level. Paragraph 135 of the NPPF states:

"The effect of a (planning) application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly on non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset"

This guidance is also retained in the draft replacement NPPF, currently subject to public consultation.

3.1.5 It will be important that the Local Heritage List reflects the views of the general public, is robust and transparent. It is anticipated that the list will be organic and once approved can be added to when information relating to other buildings and sites comes forward.

### **3.2 Procedure for preparing a Local Heritage List**

3.2.1 The following procedure is suggested for the preparation of a Local Heritage List for Northampton and is based on Historic England guidance and best practice from other local authorities.

3.2.2 The first step is the adoption of a set of objective criteria for assessment of possible entries for inclusion on the Local Heritage List. These are set out in Appendix A

3.2.3 The second step is the establishment of a selection panel to advise on entries for inclusion on a Local Heritage List. It is suggested that a panel of no more than five persons be appointed to assess nominations and recommend to Cabinet those entries which satisfy the criteria for inclusion. It will be important for the panel to have a level of independence from the Council in order to maximise the level of transparency and robustness. The panel would be volunteers who would need to have a level of relevant expertise; it is suggested that members be invited with skills such as architecture, surveying, local history and building conservation. It is also suggested that an elected member be appointed to the panel. The draft terms of reference of the panel is attached (Appendix B).

3.2.4 The general public, parish councils, local amenity groups, residents associations and other interested parties such as the Town Centre Conservation Area Advisory Committee, would be invited to nominate buildings, structures and other non-designated heritage assets for consideration, based on the adopted criteria and using the form at the rear of the attached information pack that would be made publically available (Appendix C).

3.2.5 The selection panel would assess the nominated entries and prepare a draft list of non-designated heritage assets that meet the selection criteria. The draft list would be the subject of public consultation and responses received would be reported to Cabinet when the draft list is submitted for possible adoption as Northampton's Local Heritage List.

### **3.3 Issues Arising**

3.3.1 Cabinet are asked to consider the suggested procedure in respect of Local List and to delegate to the Head of Planning the task of approaching potential members of the panel.

### **3.4 Choices (Options)**

3.4.1 Cabinet could choose to:

- a) agree the procedure for preparation of a Local Heritage List, including the selection criteria, appointment of a selection panel and invite entries from the public for consideration by a selection panel, or
- b) decide not to prepare a Local Heritage List.

3.4.2 Option a) is considered the most appropriate as it would provide the opportunity for Northampton to have an up-to-date Local Heritage List that has been prepared in a transparent and robust manner and will enable the Council to meet the requirements of the NPPF.

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

4.1.1 The preparation of a Local heritage List is in accordance with policy contained in the National Planning Policy Framework and the draft NPPF currently subject to consultation and guidance produced by Historic England. Policy E26 of the Northampton Local Plan is also relevant.

### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

4.2.1 There will be some financial cost in undertaking consultation, which will be met through the existing Conservation service budget. It is envisaged that the time given by the proposed selection panel will be voluntary.

4.2.2 Adoption of a Local Heritage List will assist the Council in safeguarding the special character and appearance of non-designated heritage assets and will be material considerations in the determination of planning applications and planning appeals. Without an up-to-date Local Heritage List, there is a danger that features that are important to Northampton's special interest and character could be harmed.

### **4.3 Legal**

4.3.1 Whilst inclusion of a heritage asset on a Local heritage List provides no additional planning controls, it does mean that its conservation as a heritage asset is an objective of the National Planning Policy Framework and a material consideration when determining a planning application.

### **4.4 Equality and Health**

4.4.1 No significant adverse impacts on those with protected characteristics have been identified. An Equality Impact Assessment Screening has been undertaken and approved.

#### **4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

4.5.1 The report seeks Cabinet approval to commence external consultation.

#### **4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes**

4.6.1 Preparation of a Local List is in accordance with strategies in the Corporate Plan to protect the environment and Love Northampton by celebrating the town's history and heritage.

#### **4.7 Other implications**

4.7.1 None

### **5. Background Papers**

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- 5.1 Paragraphs 126, 135, 141, 156, 157 & 169 of the National Planning Policy Framework (published by HM Government, March 2012);
- 5.2 Paragraph 39 of Guidance on Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (published by HM Government, April 2014),
- 5.3 Historic England Advice Note 7 – Local Heritage Listing (Historic England, May (2016).

### **6.0 Appendices**

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Appendix A: Selection criteria for inclusion of entries on Northampton's Local Heritage List

Appendix B: Draft Terms of Reference for the selection panel

Appendix C: Nomination Pack

David Trubshaw  
Senior Planning Officer - Conservation