

Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 5th March 2018

Report Title: Hastings Heritage Strategy 2017

Report By: Kevin Boorman, Marketing & Major Projects Manager

Purpose of Report

To present the Hastings Heritage Strategy 2017 for adoption by cabinet

Recommendation(s)

That cabinet endorses the final strategy as set out in Appendix 1

Reasons for Recommendations

Hastings Borough Council (HBC) has a commitment to produce a heritage strategy to support the economic and cultural regeneration of the town.

Background:

1. Hastings Heritage Strategy (Appendix 1) is based on research detailing the heritage strengths of the town, its condition and how it may be protected and enhanced.
2. An asset list was created, and a wealth of heritage assets was identified from planning documents, conservation area assessments and various historic documents. The list also included intangible heritage as well as the built and natural environment. The report is provided in Appendix 2.
3. Organisations and individuals who work, or have an interest, in local heritage were consulted during April to June 2017 and invited to stakeholder meetings and discussions to input into the strategy.

Summary of the strategy

4. This strategy is informed by work undertaken by the Drury McPherson Partnership (DMP) in September 2017.
5. Our Hastings Heritage Strategy 2017 covers the heritage of the town in the broadest sense including historic, built, natural, material and intangible assets. Many of these have already been, and continue to be, enhanced by the intervention of the council and these are highlighted both in the strategy and the report.
6. The town also has many intangible heritage assets which encompasses traditions that contribute to the 'spirit of the place' and the sense of identity. The council directly supports many 'spirit' making activities including last year's ROOT 1066 festival.
7. There are many significant achievements which reflect how well 'heritage' is often the central feature in our ambition to regenerate the town and some of these initiatives are highlighted in the report.
8. The Heritage Strategy is not a stand-alone document and complements a wide range of existing council strategies and initiatives which reflects how central maintaining the town's heritage assets are important to the council.

Implementing the strategy

9. We already do much to conserve and invest in the town's heritage, both directly and indirectly. We will prioritise resources and work with our partners to maintain and improve our heritage assets for everyone's benefit.

Implications

10. Equalities and Community Cohesiveness - the Heritage Strategy considers both tangible and intangible assets recognising the need for the community to engage in protecting, enhancing and developing the heritage of the town.
11. Risk Management – there are many risks to maintain the heritage assets of the town. Methods of reducing the risks include good planning enforcement action and providing advice to owners as appropriate.
12. Environmental Issues – the Heritage Strategy recognises that the natural environment is important heritage asset of the town.
13. Economic/Financial Implications - the council resources are currently limited but our strategy is to encourage greater private and public (external funding) investment.
14. Organisational Consequences – our suggested approach is to mainstream many of the activities as possible.
15. Local People’s Views – a full consultation exercise was conducted to develop the strategy.

Wards Affected

All

Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	Yes
Environmental Issues	Yes
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes
Local People’s Views	Yes
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

Appendix 1 – Hastings Heritage Strategy December 2017

Appendix 2 – Hastings Heritage Report produced by DMP

Officer to Contact

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