

Title of Report:	Local Listing in West Berkshire
Report to be considered by:	Council
Date of Meeting:	27 September 2012
Forward Plan Ref:	C2542

Purpose of Report: To inform Members of how a Local Listing Process will operate in West Berkshire.

Recommended Action: Members are asked to adopt the Local Listing in West Berkshire Process Description.

Reason for decision to be taken: The adopted West Berkshire Core Strategy policy CS19 seeks the conservation and where appropriate, enhancement of heritage assets and their settings. The development of a "local list" would be used to support this policy.

Other options considered: As set out in the report

Key background documentation: Local Listing in West Berkshire Process Description (8th Draft)

The proposals will also help achieve the following Council Strategy principles:

- ☒ **CSP7 - Empowering people and communities**
- ☒ **CSP8 - Transforming our services to remain affordable and effective**
- ☒ **CSP9 - Doing what's important well**

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Council Plan Principles by:

Providing a planning context and framework which will assist the decision making process

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Keith Chopping - (0118) 983 2057
E-mail Address:	kchopping@westberks.gov.uk
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	14th August 2012
Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Bryan Lyttle
Job Title:	Planning and Transport Policy Manager
Tel. No.:	01635 519638
E-mail Address:	blyttle@westberks.gov.uk

Implications

Policy:	The introduction of a local listing process for West Berkshire will support the West Berkshire Core Strategy and ensure local involvement in the protection of West Berkshires heritage.
Financial:	There are no financial implications for the Council as the costs are to be met by the West Berkshire Heritage Forum.
Personnel:	There are no personnel implications for the Council as the initial survey and evaluation will be undertaken by the West Berkshire Heritage Forum. Council Officers will review the recommendations and reports as part of their normal duties.
Legal/Procurement:	Under the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 the ultimate responsibility for agreeing to the local listing cannot reside with the Executive. The decision to accept or reject a local listing should be delegated to the Head of Planning and Countryside and this needs to be recorded in the Councils Constitution.
Property:	N/A
Risk Management:	The adoption of the local listing in West Berkshire process will enable locally important heritage assets to be assessed and recorded in a timelier manner. Without the local listing process there is the possibility that locally important heritage assets will be lost.
Equalities Impact Assessment:	Attached at Appendix B

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position		<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months		<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>
Report is to note only		<input type="checkbox"/>

Executive Summary

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In 2010 the Government published Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment which included a provision for "local listing" so that heritage assets which have a special significance to a particular community could be captured.
- 1.2 Such an approach was seen to fit well into the "localism" agenda and West Berkshire Heritage Forum (WBHF) expressed an interest in undertaking this in conjunction with West Berkshire Council (WBC).
- 1.3 Following a number of discussions between WBC and the WBHF a formal process of how local listing in West Berkshire will be managed has been produced (attached Appendix A).

2. Proposals

- 2.1 The Adopted West Berkshire Core Strategy 2006 - 2026 states that the council will compile a "local list" of heritage assets across the District which will be used to support and inform policies.
- 2.2 Officers have agreed with WBHF a proposed process (attached) which provides details of:
 - A definition of local heritage asset;
 - The criteria against which the asset will be assessed;
 - How the assessment will be undertaken;
 - How the initial assessment will be judged together with who will make the judgement; and
 - Following approval by the Selection Panel how it will then submit its recommendations to WBC for final approval, rejection or referred back to the WBHF Selection Panel for further information/detail.
- 2.1 Final approval for the local listing is delegated to the Head of Planning and Countryside unless the proposed listing receives 10 letters of objection or the local Ward Member request that the listing be determined by committee in line with the Council's Constitution.
- 2.2 The process documentation also makes it clear that expenses are not payable to assessors or members of the Selection Panel other than in exceptional circumstances.

3. Conclusion

WBHF has worked closely with Officers from the West Berkshire Conservation team and members of the West Berkshire Archaeological Service and this is reflected in the attached documentation.

The process of local listing will be of benefit to the Council in providing additional evidence for use in future policy work. It will also be of benefit for those communities wishing to supplement their parish plans, village design statements or as part of the evidence base for neighbourhood development plan.

Executive Report

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2. Policy Background

- 2.1 The West Berkshire Core Strategy (Adopted July 2012) includes Policy CS20 Historic Environment and Landscape Character which states:

"In order to ensure that the diversity and local distinctiveness of the landscape character of the District is protected and enhanced, the natural, cultural, and functional components of its character will be considered as a whole. In adopting this holistic approach, particular regard will be given to:

- c) The conservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of heritage assets and their settings (including those designations identified in Box 1)".

Box 1

Historic environment designation in West Berkshire:

- 52 Conservation Areas
 - Approximately 1,900 Listed Buildings
 - Approximately 90 Scheduled Monuments
 - 12 Historic Parks and Gardens - 3 of which, Aldermaston Court, Sandleford Priory and Shaw House are currently on the English Heritage Register of 'Heritage at Risk'
 - 1 Registered Battlefield, Newbury 1 (1643) - currently on the English Heritage Register of 'Heritage at Risk'
 - Over 5,000 other heritage assets recorded in the Historic Environmental Record (insert footnote as follows please - A database of the heritage assets in West Berkshire - Grade I, Grade 2*, Grade 2, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Battlefields, Historic Gardens, non designated buildings and landscapes)
- 2.2 Furthermore, the explanatory text of the West Berkshire Core Strategy at paragraph 5.118 states "...The Council also intends to compile a 'local list' of heritage assets across the District which will be used to support and inform policies".
 - 2.3 The National Planning Policy Framework states that local planning authorities should have a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment which is exactly what policy CS20 proposes.

3. Proposed Local Listing Process

- 3.1 The WBHF proposed process (attached) provides details of:
- A definition of local heritage asset;
 - The criteria against which the asset will be assessed;
 - How the assessment will be undertaken;
 - How the initial assessment will be judged together with who will make the judgement; and
 - Following approval by the Selection Panel how it will then submit its recommendations to WBC for final approval, rejection or referred back to the WBHF Selection Panel for further information/detail.
- 3.2 Heritage Officers from the Council will consider the submission and final approval is delegated to the Head of Planning and Countryside as per the Council's Constitution. If following publication of receipt of a local listing the Council receives 10 letters of objections to the listing or the local Ward Member requests that the application for listing be "called in" then the application for local listing will be determined by the appropriate Area Planning Committee.
- 3.3 The process documentation also makes it clear that expenses are not payable to assessors or members of the Selection Panel.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 WBHF has worked closely with Officers from the West Berkshire Conservation Team and members of the West Berkshire Archaeological Service and this is reflected in the attached documentation.
- 4.2 The process of local listing will be of benefit to the Council in providing additional evidence for use in future policy work. It will also be of benefit for those communities wishing to supplement their parish plans, village design statements or as part of the evidence base for neighbourhood development plans.

Appendices

Appendix A - Local listing in West Berkshire Process Description (Eighth Draft) West Berkshire Heritage Forum

Appendix B – Equalities Impact Assessment

Consultees

Local Stakeholders: N/A

Officers Consulted: Duncan Coe, Deborah Hammond, Dennis Greenway , Corporate Board

Trade Union: N/A