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| <b>Meeting Date</b>    | 22 September 2021   |
| <b>Report Title</b>    | Local Heritage List Listing Criteria  |
| <b>Cabinet Member</b>  | Cllr Mike Baldock - Cabinet Member for Planning   |
| <b>SMT Lead</b>        | James Freeman – Head of Planning  |
| <b>Head of Service</b> | James Freeman – Head of Planning  |
| <b>Lead Officer</b>    | Jhilmil Kishore – Senior Conservation & Design Officer (Projects)   |
| <b>Key Decision</b>    | Yes   |
| <b>Classification</b>  | Open  |
| <b>Recommendations</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To note the extent and range of consultation responses received in relation to the public consultation for the listing criteria for Local Heritage List.</li> <li>2. To agree the final version of the Local Heritage List listing criteria for adoption and publication</li> </ol> |

## 1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to note the extent and range of consultation responses received in relation to the public consultation for the Local Heritage List listing criteria and agree the final version of the Local Heritage List listing criteria for adoption and publication.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 The Swale Heritage Strategy and associated Action Plan 1 for the next three years was adopted in April 2020. Developing a Borough wide Local Heritage List is part of Action Plan 1 of the adopted Heritage Strategy.
- 2.2 As set out within the broad parameters of Heritage Strategy AP 1, public consultation commenced on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and ran for a period of 6 weeks until Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Consultation letters were sent out to all the Parish and Town councils and local heritage groups on first day of consultation, inviting their input.
- 2.3 The main purpose of the proposed Swale Borough Local Heritage List is:
- I. To raise awareness of the borough's local heritage assets and their importance to local distinctiveness.
  - II. To inform developers, owners, council officers and members about buildings within the borough boundary that are desirable to retain and protect.
  - III. To help inform guidance and specialist advice to owners in the objective of protecting the character and setting of those buildings, structures, sites and landscapes.
  - IV. To help the council in its decision making when developing local plan policy and site allocations, and in determining planning applications.

V. To record the nature of the local historic environment more accurately.

2.4 A total of 15 responses were received from 14 different respondents. Two separate responses were sent by Bobbing Parish Council. The makeup of responses was as follows:

Local amenity groups/societies:5  
Late representation – 1.

Parish/Town Councils: 7

Kent County Council and other local advisory and regulatory bodies, including adjoining local authorities: 1

2.5 The range of issues raised have a common recurring theme. Whilst the majority of respondents welcomed and expressed encouraging support for developing a Borough wide Local Heritage List and supported the listing criteria, very few actually responded to the listing criteria per se. The key themes which can be picked up from a review of the responses are as follows:

1. A particular desire to see the references made to Swale's natural environment (including trees) in the listing criteria.
2. Specific references to be made to building typology that emerged from Swale's industrial and agricultural heritage.
3. Desire to see 1960s and 1970s public buildings to be included for their architectural merit and historical association.

2.6 In conclusion, it is therefore proposed to adopt the listing criteria with essentially the same high-level vision but at the same time, absorbing much of the constructive feedback provided, which will strengthen the listing criteria and add value to it in the widest sense. The document was discussed in detail at the Local Plan Panel on 8<sup>th</sup> September, wherein several key issues were discussed, and further amendments made to the listing criteria document. The 'track changed' final version of the Listing Criteria document is attached as Appendix B.

### **3 Proposal**

3.1 That the extent and range of consultation responses received in relation to the public consultation for the Borough wide local heritage listing criteria be noted.

3.2 Further minor amendments to the proposed listing criteria as set out in appendix II as tracked changes were also agreed following the recent Local Plan Panel meeting on 8 September 2021.

3.3 To agree the final version of the listing criteria for adoption and publication based on the background information and conclusion set out above.

3.4 One outstanding matter regarding Local Views and way forward, has been delegated to the Head of Planning at the Local Plan Panel, which was held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

This was with a view for it to be discussed in detail with the Cabinet member for Planning. This will be presented verbally to the Cabinet meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021.

#### 4 Alternative Options

4.1 With all the responses being very positive and encouraging for the proposed Local Heritage List project but providing limited constructive feedback in respect of suggested changes to the local list criteria, the scope for alternative options is at best very limited.. Therefore, it is recommended that leaving the Listing Criteria as it stands without any further changes would be acceptable given the limited, but generally positive feedback provided. However, it is considered on balance that it would be beneficial to re-draft the Listing Criteria document to take on board the limited constructive feedback, particularly if it assists in strengthening wider community support for the listing criteria to represent Swale's Heritage for a long time to come.

#### 5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 This is as set out in section 2 of this report with the resultant feedback set out in the consultation response table at **Appendix A**.

#### 6 Implications

| Issue                            | Implications  |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Corporate Plan                   | Supports the aim for a Borough to be Proud of by protecting and improving the built and natural environment.  |
| Financial, Resource and Property | There are no financial implications at the present time, the updating of listing criteria document can be undertaken within available resources. However, the nomination process will be resource intensive (reliant on volunteers from parish councils, amenity society, heritage groups and the general public). This process would warrant an efficient programming of nomination, review, record and shortlist. For final selection of nominated assets, a selection committee is proposed to include representatives from Historic England, Kent County Council, Swale Borough Council and Cabinet members. Adequate liaison would be needed with the Swale BC GIS team. |
| Legal and Statutory              | There is a statutory obligation on LPA's to consider the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas, listed buildings and designated heritage assets in determining development proposals   |
| Crime and Disorder               | The Borough Council is a founding member of Heritage Watch, which is an affiliation of heritage focussed organisations set up in liaison with the police force to tackle and reduce the growing problem of heritage crime (e.g. theft of priceless artefacts and lead roof sheeting from churches).   |

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|                                       | This issue is covered in the Heritage Strategy document. A Borough wide Local Heritage List will further support this initiative.  |
| Environmental Sustainability          | One of the three dimensions of sustainable development is its environmental role: contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment. The other two dimensions are a strong economy and a healthy and socially vibrant community |
| Health and Wellbeing                  | The health and wellbeing aspects of interaction with heritage assets and heritage related projects are referenced in the Heritage Strategy.  |
| Risk Management and Health and Safety | None identified at this stage.   |
| Equality and Diversity                | None identified at this stage.   |
| Privacy and Data Protection           | None identified at this stage.   |

## 7 Appendices

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report

- Appendix A: Consultation Response Table
- Appendix B: Final draft of re-worked version of the Listing Criteria document
- Appendix C: Flow chart to show way forward after the listing criteria for Borough wide Local Heritage List is adopted

## 8 Background Papers

None.