

FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT
TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
16th July 2019

Agenda Item 24

2019 Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plans Programme

The Conservation Advisory Working Party (CAWP) considered the recommended programme at its meeting on the 15th July

CAWP whilst welcoming an evidence based and informed approach to the establishment of a programme of future Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans considers that an exception to the adopted approach should be made with respect to the Newcastle Town Centre Conservation Area. CAWP suggests that an early date should be set for a review of the 2008 Newcastle Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan having regard to the pace of change and development pressures within that Conservation Area. CAWP also recommends that suggests that a review of the programme be undertaken within the next 4 -5 years; that consideration be given to using the expertise of those members of the community who have been involved in past appraisals to assist those becoming involved for the first time; and that it would be helpful if officers brought to CAWP an annual report on progress with the programme

Your Officer's comments

Whilst CAWP's logic for treating the Newcastle Town Centre Conservation Area differently when setting a programme for Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plan is understood, members do need to be aware that undertaking a reappraisal of that particular Conservation Area, and drawing up a new Management Plan for it, is of an entirely different order of work from that involved in all the other Conservation Area appraisals within the Borough (because of its complexity, and the number of properties). If the available resources is limited to the time of the Conservation Officer as anticipated, undertaking such an appraisal would be likely to have a significant impact on the remainder of the programme.

In your Officer's opinion the case for an exception being made for the Newcastle Town Centre area and the bringing forward of it in the programme of appraisals is not clear. Members will note that there are plans to prepare (as part of the Joint Local Plan work) statements of the current character of the 6 Conservation Areas where no appraisal at all and for those 4 where it is more than 10 years old. Newcastle Town Centre Conservation Area falls within this latter category and the preparation of that summary should highlight whether there has been a significant change by the time of its preparation in the character of that Conservation Area compared with that identified in 2008. If there was, say as a result of significant development, then your Officer would have the ability to bring forward a report proposing Newcastle Town Conservation Area be included in the programme – but this is not expected to be so.

Accordingly the programme set out in Table 3 continues to be recommended to the Committee. It is also recommended that the Committee in adopting a programme agree that it be kept under review and a report on the programme be brought back to the Committee in 5 years' time. The Committee will of course continue to receive reports on the appraisals that are undertaken and consulted upon.

Amended Recommendation

- 1. That the programme for the preparation of Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans for the Conservation Areas of the Borough, as set out in Table 3 of the report be approved**
- 2. That a report on a review of the programme be brought to the Committee by no later than July 2024**