

Appendices: 1



CABINET REPORT

Report Title	Battle of Northampton 1460 – Conservation Management Plan
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	9 July 2014
Key Decision:	No
Within Policy:	No
Policy Document:	No
Directorate:	Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Tim Hadland
Ward(s)	Delapre

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To report to Cabinet details of the response to the final round of consultation on the battle of Northampton Conservation management Plan, officer responses and recommended changes. To seek Cabinet approval for the adoption of the Battle of Northampton Conservation Management Plan (CMP) as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet considers the responses received to the consultation and the recommended amendments to the draft Battle of Northampton Conservation Management Plan.
- 2.2 Cabinet approves the adoption of the Battle of Northampton 1460 – Conservation Management Plan as a Supplementary Planning Document.
- 2.3 Cabinet approves the Battle of Northampton 1460 – Conservation Management Plan to inform the activities of the Council and its tenants in the wider management of its assets which are not subject to regulation through the statutory planning process.

- 2.4 Cabinet approves the submission of a funding bid, working in association with interested parties and the community, to enable further survey work to be undertaken in accordance with a brief, agreed with the County Archaeologist and English Heritage, to try to establish the location of the Lancastrian encampment and further understand the wider battlefield.
- 2.5 Cabinet agrees to the development of a Battlefield Visitor Centre to showcase the Registered Battlefield, the results of any further survey work and any associated archaeology and local history in association with interested parties and the community.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 The purpose of the Battle of Northampton Conservation Management Plan is to provide a long-term framework for the conservation and management of the battlefield site. At the 15 January 2014 Cabinet meeting, it was agreed to issue the draft document for the purposes of public consultation. Consultation with key stakeholders and the public took place for a period of six weeks, in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement, commencing on 13 February 2014. The consultation closed on 27 March 2014.
- 3.1.2 Consultation took the form of a questionnaire; one for stakeholders and one for general response. Each questionnaire highlighted the seven overriding policies, each being specific to an element relating to the Battlefield, and sought the level of support for each policy.
- 3.1.3 The questionnaire was made available electronically through Survey Monkey, on the Council's web site and paper copies were available at key locations, including at Delapre Abbey. The questionnaire was publicised in the local press and through the Council's social media channels.
- 3.1.4 Approximately 500 responses were received and an overview of responses is included at appendix 1 together with recommended amendments to the Conservation Management Plan and the background paper showing the results of the Survey Monkey submissions.
- 3.1.5 A number of textual amendments are proposed as a result of the consultation and the in the final version of the CMP is available at the following link

[Battlefield Conservation Action Plan - Final](#)

<http://www.northampton.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/7430/cabinet-9th-july-2014--battlefield>

3.2 Issues

- 3.2.1 The CMP will assist in supporting the Delapre Abbey Conservation Plan, options appraisal and the Heritage Lottery Fund project which is due to

commence on site this Autumn. It will further enhance our understanding of the historic significance of the site, its sensitivity and the Council's commitment to its heritage.

- 3.2.2 The CMP will provide a robust framework to assess proposals against ensuring the heritage sensitivity of the landscape is appropriately considered, enabling the community to continue to enjoy the abbey and its parkland setting.
- 3.2.3 The management policies and action will enable the Council as Local Planning Authority, to evaluate proposals within the landscape in accordance with its legal duties and in accordance with national and local policy. In addition, because much of the Council's activities within the Registered Battlefield are either permitted development, or relate to issues such as landscape maintenance which are not development, it is important that the content of the CMP and its implications for these areas of the Council's and its tenants' activities is understood and informs on-going management of assets.
- 3.2.4 The Council is also developing the potential of a Battlefield Visitor Centre located at Delapre Abbey with a view to raising the profile of the Registered Battlefield, highlighting the results of proposed further survey work and any subsequent archaeological finds. A resource centre would offer a further attraction to this historic site, adding to the existing visitor offer and that proposed through the existing HLF project which should be ready by summer 2016. This will be developed in close liaison with the local community including the Friends of Delapre Abbey and the Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust.

3.3 Choices (Options)

- 3.3.1 Option 1 – The Council could choose to support and adopt the document, as amended, as SPD and also to inform its activities in relation to its assets and those of its tenants in day to day operational activities within the area. This would offer a robust framework for the use and management of the landscape and ensure development and other works within the landscape are appropriately evaluated and carried out, therefore safeguarding its integrity as a nationally registered heritage asset. Cabinet are recommended to take this option forward.
- 3.3.2 Option 2 – The Council could choose to support and adopt the document, as amended, not as SPD but only to inform its activities in relation to its assets and those of its tenants in day to day operational activities within the area. This would offer a robust framework for the use and management of the landscape. The weight attached to the document in the determination of planning applications would be less clear. Whilst this will ensure some weight in relation to the document in its role assessing development and other works within the landscape being appropriately evaluated and carried out, therefore safeguarding its integrity as a nationally registered heritage asset - it would be less strong than that attached to option 1. Cabinet are not recommended to take this option forward.

- 3.3.3 Option 3 – The Council could choose not to adopt the CMP either as SPD, or to inform its management of its assets and the activities of its tenants within the area covered by the CMP. This would limit the status of the document and could adversely impact on the decision making process when considering works or other proposals within the registered battlefield area as the status of the document and the weight attached to it as a material planning consideration would be uncertain. This could result in works taking place without sufficient regard to the historic environment, including archaeology, which could result in damage to the historic landscape and undermine the site's significance as a heritage asset. It may also result in external partners raising concerns regarding the Council's commitment to the site. Cabinet are not recommended to take this option forward.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 In recognition of its status as one of the highest ranking national designations for heritage asset, the Registered Battlefield is afforded protection through statute, national policy and policies within the development plan relating to Northampton and heritage assets. The recently adopted Nene Meadows SPD is also relevant.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 The action plan identifies how the management actions can be delivered and anticipated resources, including officer time. This may include consultants such as Battlefield archaeologists. For work streams funded from revenue accounts; the cost will be met from existing budget allocations but will have an impact on timing of delivery of actions. Where capital costs are identified these will be brought forward as specific projects for approval at the appropriate time and the Council will investigate the opportunities for grant aid to assist in delivery of these elements.
- 4.2.2 If the HLF bid is successful, further survey work would commit the Council to match funding this project. Any shortfall in funding that cannot be met from existing budgets will be sought from the Regeneration earmarked reserve. Should the HLF bid be unsuccessful, the Council will need to investigate alternative funding options
- 4.2.3 Funding options for a Battlefield Visitor Centre would need to be investigated and a capital appraisal completed for consideration and approval by the Capital Programme Board. Funding options that will be considered include external funding, re-prioritising the capital programme, reserves and borrowing. Revenue funding would also need to be fully considered and appropriate funding sources identified.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 None specifically related to this report.

4.4 Equality and Health

4.4.1 The consultation process was tailored to encourage wide community engagement by using a broad range of consultation mechanisms, including social media

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 The consultation was made available to stakeholders and public using a range of consultation options, including social media. The responses received have been considered and where appropriate textual amendments are proposed to the CMP.

4.5.2 Two questionnaires were developed, one for stakeholders and one for the public. The stakeholder questionnaire was tailored to seek input into whether the policy was appropriate and if the actions would assist in their delivery and the general use questionnaire sought input into whether the principle of a CMP for the Battlefield being adopted was supported and whether the actions would assist in delivering the policies. The public questionnaire was less detailed and concentrated on the appropriateness and effectiveness of the supporting actions associated with each policy.

It is clear from the survey results that there is very strong public support for the policy actions within the draft Battlefield Conservation Management Plan.

87% of public respondents supporting the adoption of a Battlefield

Conservation Management Plan in principle, it is obvious that this plan is wanted and that people consider that the proposed policies within it are likely to achieve what the policies set out to do.

4.5.3 Approximately 500 responses were received to the consultation mostly through survey monkey and the results form a background paper (see link at end of report). Two individual responses were received and these are detailed along with officer responses at appendix 1.

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 Priority 3 – celebrating our heritage and culture. Delapre Abbey is the Council's heritage priority and the Battlefield CMP further demonstrates this and broadens our understanding of the sensitivity of the wider landscape around the Abbey.

4.7 Other Implications

4.7.1 None specifically related to this report

5. Background Papers

The Site of the Battle of Northampton 1460 – Conservation Management Plan
[Battlefield Conservation Action Plan - Final](#)

Results of the Public Consultation

[Survey monkey results](#)

(<http://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/7429/cabinet---9th-july-2014---survey-monkey-results>)

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