

**GODMANCHESTER (EARNING STREET)  
CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN  
CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS  
(Report by Planning Policy Manager)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the responses to the Godmanchester (Earning Street) Management Plan consultation documents and to consider the Council's response.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Section 71 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 places a duty on local planning authorities to formulate and publish proposals for the preservation of its Conservation Areas. Part of this requirement can be satisfied by the production of Character Assessments, but further work is required to present ideas for the enhancement of a Conservation Area: Management Plans are the means by which a planning authority can present such proposals.
- 2.2 The Council is now also being judged on its performance in relation to Best Value Performance Indicators, one area of which relates to the production of management plans for its Conservation Areas on a five year rolling programme.
- 2.3 In March 2006, English Heritage published guidance material on the management of Conservation Areas. This now forms the basis for best practice and the formulation of management plans.
- 2.4 Godmanchester (Earning Street) Conservation Area already has a valid Character Assessment, produced in 2003, which includes references to potential enhancement opportunities, but it does not have an associated Management Plan.

**3. THE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- 3.1 The Management Plan provides a set of proposals for the enhancement of the Conservation Area. It takes the form of a schedule which identifies existing shortcomings or potential project areas for improvement. In each case, a potential response is indicated. If approved by Cabinet, each project will be progressed in more detail following the consultation period and will involve contributions from a range of officers and local groups.

- 3.2 It is intended that the Management Plan will be updated on a regular basis and will also form an agenda for on-going discussions with local groups for co-ordinated enhancement of the Conservation Area.

#### **4. THE CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

- 4.1 7 written responses have been received from the statutory agencies, local organisations and members of the public consulted. The comments received are presented within Appendix 1 and the Council's response to them is also indicated.
- 4.2 All comments made relate to minor issues of fact or detail, or issues beyond the scope of the document. As a result of the responses, it has been necessary to make only minor amendments to the document.
- 4.3 On 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006, the Development Control Panel endorsed the Management Plan.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 That the Cabinet considers the responses to comments presented in Appendix 1 and agrees to:
1. Adopt the Godmanchester (Earning Street) Conservation Area Management Plan as a set of proposals for the enhancement of the Conservation Area and as a basis for further discussion and project work.
  2. Authorize the Head of Planning Services to make any minor consequential amendments to the text and illustrations necessary as a result of these changes, after consultation with the Executive Member for Planning Strategy.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Draft Godmanchester (Earning Street) Conservation Area Management Plan

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