

Improvement and Sustainability to Listed Buildings

Report of the Head of Planning and Building

Recommended:

That the Committee considers the attached briefing note and provides guidance relating to how the Council could look to improve the sustainability of heritage assets across the Borough within the framework of the planning system.

SUMMARY:

- The briefing note attached at Appendix A sets out the existing national and local context regarding the sustainability of heritage assets, including listed buildings, in relation to the planning system. A recent Government report has identified a range of issues that can constrain the improvement of the sustainability of these assets and has identified actions nationally to address this.
- There are a number of issues that can potentially make the greening of heritage assets more challenging. The briefing note considers, within the planning framework, what could be undertaken to support the improvement of the sustainability of our heritage assets.
- These issues can be addressed locally by considering the nature of the building in question, and its setting, and using this information to develop bespoke solutions, and to engage with the planning service, to obtain advice on proposed alterations, and new development, before formal applications are made. Work could also be undertaken to improve knowledge and awareness of existing guidance available to those responsible for historic properties.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Away Day in July 2023 one of the topics raised was supporting improvement and sustainability to listed buildings.

2 Background

- 2.1 Members were keen to know what support there is to upgrade/green proof old buildings and those in conservation areas.
- 2.2 This would add value by improving our climate change actions, improving financial state and wellbeing of individual householders and improving housing stock.

- 2.3 As set out in the appended briefing note this can potentially be addressed by a range of means, such as enhancing awareness of how these matters can be addressed in an historic context, including offering advice and support to individuals and businesses which will enable them to develop solutions that are appropriate to their premises. This also enables making progress through the planning system easier for example.

3 Legal Implications

- 3.1 None other than alterations to Listed Buildings require Listed Building Consent under the Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and permitted development rights are more restricted for listed buildings and within conservation areas. The impact of development proposals, which affect the historic environment, also need to be considered when planning decisions are made on applications.

4 Equality Issues

- 4.1 None

5 Other Issues

- 5.1 Community Safety - none

- 5.2 Environmental Health Issues – none

- 5.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate
(See attached briefing note which includes a summary of the Council's current position).

- 5.4 Property Issues
The Council's portfolio of buildings includes some listed buildings, including Andover Guildhall (Grade II*) and the Italianate Romsey Cemetery Chapel (GII). There may be opportunities, in partnership with the Council's Property and Asset Management Team, to improve the energy efficiency of these buildings.

- 5.5 Wards/Communities Affected
All

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 Members are invited to consider and discuss the issues identified in the Appended briefing note and to consider possible next steps and actions that the Council could take.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

None

Confidentiality

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

No of Annexes:

1

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File Ref:

N/A

Report to:

Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

Date:

7 February 2024