

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 22nd September 2021

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Environment and Urban Renewal

SUBJECT: Local List – Heritage Assets

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 After a national call for ‘expressions of interest’ late last year, Halton, in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East, have received £70,000 funding from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) towards creating a unified Cheshire Local List. The register of heritage assets which while not necessarily of national or international significance, play a key role in local and community identity, and our understanding and appreciation of Cheshire’s past.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That members note the report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Local heritage plays an essential role in creating and reinforcing a sense of local character and distinctiveness in the historic environment. It can be formally identified in a number of ways, as part of the wider range of designation, and one such way is the production of local heritage lists. These enable the significance of any building or site on the list to be better considered in planning applications affecting the building or site or its setting.

3.2 A ‘Local List’ gives importance to local heritage within the planning system, but also allows the expression of community identity, both through the list itself and through engagement in the research and designation process. It is a key component of conservation area management, and allows numerous stakeholders to better understand and appreciate the heritage of the county and its communities.

3.3 This Local List approach is being considered as a community-driven dataset and it is hoped that engagement with the development of the local list will enable local communities to define local heritage significance on their own terms. While aspects of the local heritage of Cheshire will always connect to national and regional themes, it is important that communities also have the opportunity to have recognised the significance of heritage that is important to them alone.

- 3.4 Over the next six months, officers will be working with consultants - Headland Design Associates (HDA) on five target areas in Halton: Appleton, Daresbury, Farnworth, Hale and New Town.
- 3.5 In these areas, HDA will work with local volunteers to identify locally significant heritage assets and develop them as proposals for the local list using the online Exegesis Local Heritage List Platform.
- 3.6 Despite a particular intensity of activity during the time of the availability of the MHCLG funding, a key outcome of the project is to get all of the procedures in place for the Local List to continue to exist as an ongoing, dynamic dataset, that anyone can propose additions to at any time, and that will be regularly reviewed.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This project will help with the development of an adopted Local List that will recognise heritage assets worthy of local protection.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No other implications to the Council have been identified.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Creating a local list to protect non-heritage assets within the borough

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None

7.1 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 7.1 No significant foreseeable impacts were identified at any of these stages.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
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