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| Committee(s) | Dated: |
| Planning and Transportation Committee | 4 October 2016 |
| Subject: Historic Environment Strategy: Public Consultation | Public |
| Report of: Carolyn Dwyer Director of the Built Environment | For Decision |
| Report author: Kathryn Stubbs Department of the Built Environment | |

Summary

The Historic Environment Strategy brings together City of London Corporation guidance on the historic environment. The significance and high quality of the City's historic environment is reflected in the presence of historic assets such as the Mansion House and St Paul's Cathedral within the City boundary and the neighbouring Tower of London World Heritage Site. The historic environment is an instrumental part of the City's unique character and contributes to place making and the future city agenda. The Strategy is structured as a series of documents that are linked and can be read independently. It includes existing guidance, in original or revised form, and new evidence and guidance. Some elements of the Strategy already have or will have the status of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and others are evidence documents to inform new proposals and projects.

Recommendations

Members approve the draft text of three documents (one of which is a proposed SPDs) of the Historic Environment Strategy, attached as Appendices 1 - 3 to this report and agree to them being issued for public consultation for six weeks commencing in October 2016.

Main Report

Background

1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that 'Local Planning Authorities should set out ... a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment' and take into account 'opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place' (paragraph 126). They 'should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible' (paragraph 141).

2. The London Plan, adopted March 2015, encourages the identification and recording of heritage assets so that the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and of utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account (Policy 7.8). It states that the significance of heritage assets should be assessed when development is proposed and schemes designed (Policy 7.9).
3. The City of London Local Plan, January 2015, includes Policy CS12 Historic Environment and Policy DM 12.1: Managing change affecting all heritage assets and spaces, which seeks 'to sustain and enhance heritage assets, their settings and significance'. The Historic Environment Strategy, and the adopted SPDs, are consistent with the approach outlined in the Local Plan.
4. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the planning policy documents to be prepared and the timetable for preparing them. The most recent update of the LDS was approved by your Committee in December 2015 and includes a proposed Heritage Assets SPD. The Heritage Assets SPD has been retitled The Historic Environment Strategy to reflect the fact that it is a suite of documents that include both existing and proposed SPDs and evidence base documents. The status of each document is set out in the table below. The Historic Environment Strategy documents are being prepared in line with current Historic England guidance.

Current Position

5. The Historic Environment Strategy brings together City of London Corporation guidance on the historic environment. The Strategy is structured as a series of documents that are linked and can be read independently. It includes existing guidance and new evidence and guidance as set out in the table below:

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| Introduction | | | | | |
| Characterisation of the Historic Environment Document | | | | | |
| Townscape Analysis Document | | | | | |
| Conservation Areas | Buildings and Building Recording | Archaeology | Interpretation Strategy | Churchyard Statements | Parks and Gardens |
| Conservation Area Character Summaries and Management Strategy SPDs | Listed Building Management Guidelines – Barbican SPD Listed Building | Archaeology and Development Guidance - SPD | Interpretation Strategy for Monuments and Archaeology - SPD | Churchyard Statements of Significance - Evidence Base | Registered Parks and Gardens in the City of London – Evidence Base |

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| | Management Guidelines – Golden Lane SPD | | | | |
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6. The updated and new documents are being produced in phases. The first phase is the current programme of revised conservation area character summaries and management strategies for adoption as SPDs (as identified in the LDS). The second phase which is being carried out in accordance with the Business Plan, is the subject of this report and comprises three documents:
7. Introduction to the Historic Environment Strategy: a general introduction which sets out the significance and value of the City’s historic environment and the policy framework (Appendix 1). It is for all stakeholders with an interest in, or carrying out work that will affect the historic environment.
8. Archaeology and Development Guidance SPD, updated and revised guidance on archaeology in the development process (Appendix 2). The proposed SPD is a revision to the existing Planning Advice Note, and provides guidance for all those planning development which may affect archaeology. It follows professional good practice and sector wide guidance.
9. Churchyard Statements of Significance, Evidence Base: the City churchyards are heritage assets and a unique assemblage of burial grounds in an urban context. They have been assessed as a group and individual statements of significance written to bring together existing information and create a tool for future management and interpretation (Appendix 3). The full statements document can be accessed here:

W:\File Transfer\City churchyards statements of significance 2016

10. The third phase will comprise revised conservation area character summaries and management strategies SPD’s for those conservation areas that do not have an up to date SPD, together with an Interpretation Strategy for Monuments and Archaeology SPD and a Historic Building Recording SPD. With further material in the form of a Registered Historic Parks and Gardens evidence base, characterisation document and a section dealing with townscape analysis of the city. When prepared, these documents will be reported to your Committee for agreement to issue for public consultation.
11. All phases are subject to internal consultation with relevant departments of the City Corporation, including the Departments of the Built Environment, Open Spaces, City Surveyors’ and Solicitors’.

Proposals

12. Subject to the approval of this Committee, formal consultation will be undertaken on the attached Historic Environment Strategy documents during a six week period commencing in October.

13. Consultation will be undertaken in compliance with the Statement of Community Involvement. The documents will be posted on the City Corporation's website, made available in City libraries and at the Guildhall. Statutory bodies, businesses, landowners, agents, residents and others on our consultation database will be informed of the consultation directly by email or letter.
14. Once the responses to the public consultation have been analysed, officers will submit a report to your Committee early in 2017 recommending adoption of the SPDs by resolution and approval of the other elements of the Historic Environment Strategy which have been the subject of public consultation.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

15. The Historic Environment Strategy addresses the three Strategic Aims of the Corporate Plan 2015-19, Key Delivery Theme 1 (Future Key Places), Key Policy Priority Number 5 and the Department of the Built Environment's Business Plan. It will take account of all the City Corporation's other plans and strategies and complement key corporate objectives, such as developing the City's Cultural Hub and progressing the future City agenda.
16. The Historic Environment Strategy supports the Strategic aims of the Departmental Business Plan – 'High quality architecture and public realm that attracts and responds to new development, enhances the historic environment and is enjoyable to experience'. These aims are met by promoting the protection and enhancement of the heritage assets in the City.
17. In preparing the SPD, regard has been had to the NPPF, London Plan, Local Plan, community strategy and other adopted SPDs in accordance with section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and regulation 10 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
18. An Equality Impact Assessment Test of Relevance has been carried out for the draft Historic Environment Strategy and no equality issues were identified that required a full Equality Impact Assessment. This can be found in Appendix 4 .
19. A Sustainability Appraisal Screening Report has been carried out for the draft SPD, which has concluded that a full Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required, subject to statutory consultees' confirmation. These can be found in Appendix 5.

Implications

20. The costs of preparing and consulting upon the Historic Environment Strategy will be met from existing staff resources.
21. There are no financial risks, legal, property or HR implications arising from the proposed Historic Environment Strategy consultation and adoption process.

Conclusion

22. The Historic Environment Strategy brings together City of London Corporation guidance on the historic environment in a series of linked documents. Members are requested to approve the draft text of three documents (one of which is a proposed SPD) of the Historic Environment Strategy, attached as Appendices 1 - 4 to this report and agree to them being issued for public consultation for six weeks commencing in October 2016.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Historic Environment Strategy Introduction
- Appendix 2 – Archaeology and Development Guidance SPD
- Appendix 3 – City of London Churchyard Statements of Significance
- Appendix 4 – EQIA test of relevance
- Appendix 5 – Sustainability Appraisal Screening Reports

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