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Date: 26<sup>th</sup> August 2016  
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**To: All Members of the Planning, Housing and Economic Development Policy  
Development and Scrutiny Panel**

Councillor Rob Appleyard  
Councillor Barry Macrae  
Councillor Colin Blackburn  
Councillor Lisa O'Brien  
Councillor Fiona Darey  
Councillor Cherry Beath  
Councillor David Veale

**Cabinet Member for Economic Development:** Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones  
**Cabinet Member for Homes & Planning:** Councillor Liz Richardson  
**Cabinet Member for Community Services:** Councillor Martin Veal

Chief Executive and other appropriate officers  
Press and Public

Dear Member

**Planning, Housing and Economic Development Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel:  
Tuesday, 6th September, 2016**

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **Planning, Housing and Economic Development  
Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel**, to be held on **Tuesday, 6th September, 2016** at  
**2.00 pm** in the **Kaposvar Room - Guildhall, Bath**.

The agenda is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely

Mark Durnford  
for Chief Executive

**If you need to access this agenda or any of the supporting reports in an alternative  
accessible format please contact Democratic Services or the relevant report author  
whose details are listed at the end of each report.**

*This Agenda and all accompanying reports are printed on recycled paper*

## NOTES:

- 1. Inspection of Papers:** Any person wishing to inspect minutes, reports, or a list of the background papers relating to any item on this Agenda should contact Mark Durnford who is available by telephoning Bath 01225 394458 or by calling at the Guildhall Bath (during normal office hours).
- 2. Public Speaking at Meetings:** The Council has a scheme to encourage the public to make their views known at meetings. They may make a statement relevant to what the meeting has power to do. They may also present a petition or a deputation on behalf of a group. Advance notice is required not less than two full working days before the meeting (this means that for meetings held on Wednesdays notice must be received in Democratic Services by 4.30pm the previous Friday)

The public may also ask a question to which a written answer will be given. Questions must be submitted in writing to Democratic Services at least two full working days in advance of the meeting (this means that for meetings held on Wednesdays, notice must be received in Democratic Services by 4.30pm the previous Friday). If an answer cannot be prepared in time for the meeting it will be sent out within five days afterwards. Further details of the scheme can be obtained by contacting Mark Durnford as above.

- 3. Details of Decisions taken at this meeting** can be found in the minutes which will be published as soon as possible after the meeting, and also circulated with the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime details can be obtained by contacting Mark Durnford as above.

Appendices to reports are available for inspection as follows:-

**Public Access points** - Reception: Civic Centre - Keynsham, Guildhall - Bath, The Hollies - Midsomer Norton. Bath Central and Midsomer Norton public libraries.

**For Councillors and Officers** papers may be inspected via Political Group Research Assistants and Group Rooms/Members' Rooms.

## 4. Recording at Meetings:-

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To comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, we require the consent of parents or guardians before filming children or young people. For more information, please speak to the camera operator

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- 5. Attendance Register:** Members should sign the Register which will be circulated at the meeting.

**6. THE APPENDED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ARE IDENTIFIED BY AGENDA ITEM NUMBER.**

**7. Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

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Arrangements are in place for the safe evacuation of disabled people.

**Planning, Housing and Economic Development Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel -  
Tuesday, 6th September, 2016**

**at 2.00 pm in the Kaposvar Room - Guildhall, Bath**

**A G E N D A**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair will draw attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out under Note 6.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting declarations of interest are received from Members in any of the agenda items under consideration at the meeting. Members are asked to indicate:

(a) The agenda item number in which they have an interest to declare.

(b) The nature of their interest.

(c) Whether their interest is **a disclosable pecuniary interest** *or* **an other interest**,  
(as defined in Part 2, A and B of the Code of Conduct and Rules for Registration of Interests)

Any Member who needs to clarify any matters relating to the declaration of interests is recommended to seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer or a member of his staff before the meeting to expedite dealing with the item during the meeting.

5. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

6. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

At the time of publication no notifications had been received.

7. MINUTES - 5TH JULY 2016 (Pages 7 - 18)

8. CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

The Cabinet Member(s) will update the Panel on any relevant issues. Panel members may ask questions on the update(s) provided.

9. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK UPDATES

The Panel will receive a verbal update on this item.

10. WORLD HERITAGE STATUS - 2ND INSCRIPTION (Pages 19 - 26)

This is an update report on World Heritage Site (WHS) management in Bath. It concentrates on the current revision of the WHS Management Plan, progress of the 'Great Spas of Europe' project and the Archway project to deliver a World Site Heritage Interpretation Centre.

11. ARCHIVE CENTRE (Pages 27 - 34)

The purpose of the report is to apprise the Panel of the work undertaken to date towards creating a Local History Centre for Bath and North East Somerset in line with best practice elsewhere.

12. PANEL WORKPLAN (Pages 35 - 40)

This report presents the latest workplan for the Panel. Any suggestions for further items or amendments to the current programme will be logged and scheduled in consultation with the Panel's Chair and supporting officers.

The Committee Administrator for this meeting is Mark Durnford who can be contacted on 01225 394458.

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**BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

**PLANNING, HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

Tuesday, 5th July, 2016

**Present:-** Councillors Rob Appleyard (Chair), Barry Macrae (Vice-Chair), Colin Blackburn, Lisa O'Brien and David Veale

**Also in attendance:** Graham Sabourn (Head of Housing), Lisa Bartlett (Divisional Director, Development) and Louise Davidson (Team Manager (Enabling & Development))

**1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chairman drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

**3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Councillor Fiona Darey sent her apologies to the Panel.

**4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chairman, Councillor Rob Appleyard declared a non-pecuniary interest as a non-executive Director of Curo in relation to agenda item 9 (Foxhill Regeneration & Development Charter). He stated that he would remain as a member of the Panel for that item but the Vice-Chair, Councillor Barry Macrae would act as Chairman.

The Cabinet Member for Homes & Planning, Councillor Liz Richardson declared an other interest in relation to agenda item 10 (Local Development Framework Updates) as she is a part time lecturer at Bath Spa University.

**5 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There was none.

**6 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING**

Frieda Buckley presented a petition and made a statement to the Panel on the subject of the Foxhill Regeneration & Development Charter. A summary is set out below and a copy of the statement can be found on the Panel's Minute Book.

She said that she had carried out a petition regarding the Foxhill regeneration planned by Curo. She added that she was a member of the Foxhill Residents Association and also a committee member of the association and that she had their full support.

She informed the Panel that the petition had been signed by 338 residents to oppose the demolition of the homes and community of Foxhill, requests the upgrading of homes in need of improvement and is in favour of the rebuilding or upgrading of Dunster House, Selworthy and Bradford Park flats. She added that our Foxhill Residents Association survey shows that most of the tenants in the flats want their flats to be improved or rebuilt, whereas most of the tenants and owners of houses do not want to move.

She explained that in her view Foxhill was no longer a traditional council estate; it had become a peaceful village with a strong supportive community, a rare occurrence in our modern world. She said that some of the residents had lived there for sixty years and have paid rent to the council, Somer Housing and Curo for all those years – does that not count for something?

She acknowledged the need for more houses in our country but said that they should not be built on an existing, happy and thriving estate. She asked if the fact that 60% of the homes in Foxhill are owned by Curo was a valid excuse for wanting to destroy a peaceful community.

The Chairman thanked her for her statement and asked for the petition to be passed to the Cabinet Member for Homes & Planning so that they could issue a formal response. The other Panel members agreed with this proposal.

David Redgewell, South West Transport Network made a statement to the Panel regarding the Joint Spatial Plan. A summary is set out below and a copy of the statement can be found on the Panel's Minute Book.

He said that he was concerned about a lack of a retail policy for the Bristol/Bath City Region and the need to regenerate the city centres of Bristol, Bath and Weston-Super-Mare. He stated that the sub-region needs a proper retail plan to go alongside the housing and economic policy.

He said that to permit such a huge expansion of retail and other main town centre uses at an out-of-centre location goes against Government policy unless Cribbs Causeway is declared a new town or city centre under re-examination of the core strategy.

He stated that national and local planning policy requires that a sequential test is applied to proposals for main town centre uses that are not in an existing centre. The test requires applications to be located in town centres and only if suitable sites are not available should out-of-centre sites be considered.

He said that if this development goes ahead we would like to see a proper town centre/city centre for the Patchway/Cribbs Causeway, a new neighbourhood with more affordable housing, supermarket, bank and post office, improvements to the



bus station and coach park and full operation of the Henbury loop with connections by MetroBus to Filton North, Henbury and Parkway stations and a higher density housing plan above the shops and car parks.

He said he was also concerned that the West of England Planning Board should be using its powers to allocate town centre development first especially protecting the City Centre of Bristol, Weston-Super-Mare town centre regeneration and Bath City Centre and Riverside especially with affordable housing and mixed use development.

He stated that the lack of affordable rural housing is becoming a real issue in Gloucestershire and Somerset covered by the West of England Partnership.

He said that the Joint Strategic Plan had not been addressed appropriately through the West of England Scrutiny.

Councillor Barry Macrae asked if he was intending to make similar statements to the other Councils in the West of England.

Mr Redgewell replied that either he or colleagues would be making similar representations.

The Chairman thanked him for his statement.

## **7 MINUTES - 3RD MAY 2016**

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

## **8 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE**

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones addressed the Panel. He said that he wished to highlight some of the achievements within his portfolio from the past year.

He said that the Rural Broadband project had formed a significant part of their work and had seen 10 new cabinets go live in 2016. He added that following a trial of free Wi-Fi in the centre of Bath during the 2015 Christmas Market plans were ongoing to have this in place permanently from early 2017.

He wished to praise the work of the Film Friendly Partnership and informed the Panel of the launch of the Creative Investment Board which will seek to align arts organisations with funding partners.

He thanked everyone involved with the installation of the Keynsham Clock Tower and those involved with the Keynsham Music Festival for running such an enthusiastic event.

He said that the project of Bath Quays North would see new public areas and paths created.

He stated that he was proud that the 300<sup>th</sup> affordable home had recently become occupied within Bath Western Riverside.

He informed the Panel that the Council were part assisting to fund the post of an Economic Development Manager for the Somer Valley area.

He said that he was pleased with the performance of Heritage Services and the number of visitors to the Roman Baths, the Victoria Art Gallery and other similar sites.

He encouraged Panel members to take part in the current consultation relating to the World Heritage Management Plan.

Councillor Colin Blackburn asked what % of the rural area was now covered following the rollout of the project.

Councillor Anketell-Jones replied that 90% were now covered, but that the Government subsidy for the project was due to end soon. He added that phase two of the project would take place next year with the likelihood that small providers would cover the next initial 5%.

The Chairman said that connectivity and reliability were required. He added that he understood that the Government had changed the rules on local subsidies. He asked if the Council could do more to help.

Councillor Anketell-Jones replied that he felt that there was no more the Council could do at this time.

Councillor Barry Macrae commented that he was concerned that the initial funding was due to end. He said that the Council should lobby the commercial sector to take advantage of future opportunities.

Councillor Lisa O'Brien asked for further details regarding the Creative Investment Board.

Councillor Anketell-Jones replied that it was in its early stages of development. He said that he was its Chair and that Ben Woods (Group Manager - Economy & Culture) was also involved. He added that a Memorandum of Understanding was under discussion.

Councillor Colin Blackburn asked if he knew when the new Destructor Bridge would finally be in place.

Councillor Anketell-Jones replied that Crest were the contractor for this project, not the Council. He added that he could not recall the current timescale.

The Chairman asked if having such congested highways around the city centre of Bath was having any economic effect.

Councillor Anketell-Jones replied that he would report back on that in more detail at a future meeting. He added that the Transport Strategy and the Economic Strategy should work in harmony with each other.

The Cabinet Member for Homes & Planning, Councillor Liz Richardson addressed the Panel.

She informed the Panel that discussions were at an early stage regarding the Housing & Planning Act. She added that regarding the Joint Spatial Plan she would endeavour to look after our rural areas.

She explained that the examination of the Placemaking Plan was due to take place in September 2016.

She wished to highlight that it had been a record housebuilding year within Bath & North East Somerset with a net increase of 809 homes. She added that the work of the Building Control team should be praised. She said that they are a successful and competent department within the Council.

The Chairman asked if the matter of online Homesearch bids had been clarified.

Councillor Richardson replied that there are very few people that will bid on every property.

The Chairman asked if housing applicants were only eligible to remain in priority bands on the waiting list for a limited time.

The Head of Housing replied that it was dependant on the reason they had secured priority status. For example if they were prioritised because they were under occupying they would maintain priority status until they moved. For most other reasons then the priority status would be regularly reviewed.

Councillor Lisa O'Brien asked if residents outside of the district were allowed to bid for accommodation.

The Head of Housing replied that all applicants must meet a local connection test, usually through living in the district, but could be through local employment or needing to provide support to a local family member.

Councillor Barry Macrae commented that he was anxious that the West of England was to become Bristol centric and that we needed to maintain our local priorities.

Councillor Richardson replied that she was happy to reassure Councillor Macrae of the intention to carry on with work within the Core Strategy Review. She added that the Joint Strategic Plan would include North East Somerset even though they have decided not to take part in the devolution process and that all parties were equally represented in the Joint Strategic Plan.

Councillor Barry Macrae asked why the number of days that people without a local connection can stay at Julian House had been reduced from 28 to 21.

The Head of Housing replied that statistics show that there is the likelihood of better outcomes for people if they return to their existing support networks and this time reduction encouraged residents to do just that.

The Chairman thanked both of the Cabinet Members and the Head of Housing for their updates on behalf of the Panel.

## **9 APPROVAL OF THE FOXHILL REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT CHARTER**

Councillor Rob Appleyard handed the role of Chairman for this item to his Vice-Chair Councillor Barry Macrae.

Councillor Macrae commented that a previous report to the Panel regarding the Charter had been received positively.

The Team Manager for Enabling & Development explained that the draft charter has undergone a period of independent consultation with the community and stakeholders and the outcomes of the consultation have been reviewed and incorporated into the Charter Ambitions as part of the development of the final version of the charter for adoption later this summer.

She reminded the Panel that at the heart of the draft Charter were four ambition themes (Communities, Connections, Housing Choice and Quality of Place) that will guide decision-making about regeneration and development.

She highlighted changes to the wording of the ambitions to ensure delivery, including:

- Ensure that a range of housing types in all tenures will allow for changes in needs and lifestyles as people's circumstances and ages change, so they can still remain fully included in their neighbourhood
- Ensure that any new housing in the estate is of the same high quality as Mulberry Park.
- Actively promote opportunities to work from home or work close to home.
- Creating 3 separate ambitions around standards, distinguishing between the quality of new build homes, improving standards in the retained Curo housing stock and retained owner occupied homes.

She stated that the final version of the Charter would be presented for adoption by the Cabinet in September 2016 and that she was seeking the support of the Panel with regard to the revised Charter and its ambitions.

Councillor Lisa O'Brien commented that she was not happy with the length of time allocated to the original consultation that took place in February / March 2016. She

said that of the 863 households that could be accounted for in Foxhill feedback forms were completed by 15 of the 40 attendees at the consultation workshop.

The Team Manager for Enabling & Development replied that the decision regarding the consultation timescales were taken in the context of an established project plan. She added that all parties were made aware of the consultation. She said that the purpose of the Charter is supposed to be a high level document that sits above the masterplan which is also underway.

The Cabinet Member for Homes & Planning thanked officers for their work on this matter as the Council was not required to carry out this level of detail for the project.

Councillor Barry Macrae commented that he was happy with the work so far and called for the project to remain person focussed.

The Team Manager for Enabling & Development said that the Council has a role in supporting Curo and testing them at the same time. She informed them that additional posts were being assigned to the project to work with the local community. She added that she would be happy to bring further reports to the Panel regarding the project.

Councillor Rob Appleyard asked if all households were notified on the consultation of the Charter.

The Team Manager for Enabling & Development replied that all households had received a letter regarding it. She added that Curo see this an opportunity to develop Mulberry park and Foxhill together. She stated that every household will have their own conversation with regard to their own property.

Councillor Barry Macrae said that an ongoing communication was to be encouraged.

The Cabinet Member for Homes & Planning commented that around 200 people attended a recent Masterplan meeting and said that the Charter was a non-statutory doc which would evolve over time.

Councillor Bob Goodman addressed the Panel. He said that there was much to commend within the Charter including;

- New homes delivered as part of the regeneration should be to the same standard as new homes in Mulberry Park;
- The continued investment into Curo's own retained property to improve the quality and energy efficiency and make the best use of the retained communal open spaces;
- Support owner occupiers retained homes to improve energy efficiency and physical quality of their homes.

He said that Curo have, without doubt, gone some way in addressing the concerns I had when I was first elected. However, I believe Curo must take into account the wishes of the community. It is not good enough to consult, you also have to listen and act upon it.

He said that clause 4.3 of the Report of the Foxhill Housing Zone indicates it is needed to meet and accelerate the completion of new homes. He added that this contributes to Core Strategy House Building targets and delivery of affordable housing. However, this is only in respect of the Mulberry Park Development and not Foxhill as Foxhill was not part of the Core Strategy – The Panel should understand this.

He said that he would like particular assurances from this Scrutiny Panel that they will ensure the regeneration of this much loved area does not lose affordable/social housing.

He stated that he would do his utmost to ensure residents of Foxhill are listened to and any resident who wants to stay on Foxhill in the community which is special to them will be found accommodation suitable for them.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to:

- i) Note the consultation outcomes for the Foxhill Regeneration and Development Charter.
- ii) Support the revised Charter ambitions for inclusion in the final version of the Charter for adoption by the Cabinet in September 2016.

## **10 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK UPDATES**

Councillor Rob Appleyard resumed the role of Chairman at the beginning of this item.

The Divisional Director for Development introduced this item to the Panel. She explained that following the publication of the Joint Spatial Plan Issues and Options consultation document at the end of last year, work has been progressing on the preparation of options for the draft Plan. This has entailed amongst other things an assessment of the infrastructure required to support new development, especially transport (The Infrastructure Delivery Plan or IDP). She added that this work has included transport modelling as part of the preparation of the Joint Transport Strategy (JTS) which is being prepared in tandem with the JSP in light of the need to ensure that new development is properly aligned with new infrastructure, in order to assist in comparing alternative locations.

She stated that the next key step is the formulation of the most appropriate spatial strategy which enables the delivery of the housing and economic development needed and which is supported by the necessary new infrastructure. She said that this is scheduled to be produced by the middle of July for consideration and for public consultation in the autumn of 2016. She added that the JSP is still in the formative stages of preparation and so there is still the scope to consider different options as the first formal draft of the Plan is due to be prepared by the spring of 2017.

She informed the Panel that the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) have confirmed that Claire Sherratt has been appointed as the Examination Inspector regarding the Placemaking Plan and that the Council has appointed Chris Banks as the Examination Programme Officer. She said that his role will be to help organise and programme the Examination and will act as the liaison point between the Council, the Inspector and representors.

She explained that the Examination is into the soundness of the Plan i.e. whether it has been positively prepared and is justified; effective; and in line with national policy. She stated that the programme for and issues to be considered through the Examination will be determined by the Inspector and that the Examination will therefore be structured around the issues that the Inspector identifies as of critical importance for the soundness of the Plan and is not driven by the representations.

She said that the Inspector has started the process of reviewing the Plan; supporting evidence; and representations received during public consultation. She added that it was anticipated that the Inspector would outline the main matters and issues for consideration at the hearings by the end of June, although these have not been received yet.

Councillor Barry Macrae asked for the Panel to be informed if no information had been received by the end of the week.

On the matter of student accommodation the Divisional Director for Development said that the Adopted Core Strategy and the Draft Placemaking Plan sets out the proposed policy approach. She explained that at the time of preparing the Core Strategy it was considered that the student accommodation requirements resulting from the growth aspirations of both Universities up to 2020/2021 could be accommodated. She added that since that time the Universities' growth aspirations have increased and the Draft Placemaking Plan seeks to balance the impacts of these increased growth requirements against accommodating other requirements in the city e.g. for general housing and employment space.

She informed the Panel that the Housing & Planning Bill received Royal Assent on 12 May 2016 and is now enacted. She said that it is primarily focused on speeding up the planning system with the aim of delivering more housing.

She explained that the Act introduces a range of changes to the planning system and include introducing 'permission in principle' and the creation of 'Starter Homes' for first time buyers. She said there are also provisions which allow the Secretary of State to intervene in local plan preparation and measures to boost self-build and custom-build housing.

She said that 'permission in principle' is an automatic consent for building on sites identified in local and neighbourhood plans and on a local planning authority's register of brownfield land. She added that it is intended to provide developers with greater certainty of consent at an earlier stage in the development cycle than at present. She stated that the provision will not commence until 13 July 2016.

She informed the Panel that starter homes are now categorised as “affordable housing” on new build developments and will count towards Councils’ affordable housing targets. She said that starter homes will be available for first time buyers aged over 23 and below 40 at a 20% discount to market value.

She explained that changes arising from the Housing & Planning Act will have implications for the Core Strategy review in terms of the affordable housing requirement and policy approach and potentially the Placemaking Plan as it goes through the Examination process.

She stated that a number of Supplementary Planning Documents are also scheduled for review or preparation. These are; a) Houses in Multiple Occupation, b) List of Locally Important Buildings, c) Building Heights and d) Bath Design Guide.

Councillor Lisa O’Brien asked if alongside their change in growth aspirations had the Universities attitude to providing an accommodation solution changed.

The Divisional Director for Development replied that over the last 10 – 15 years there had been an increase in the number of purpose built developments. She added that discussions with the Universities were ongoing and that the work on the Houses in Multiple Occupation SPD would provide more information.

Councillor Colin Blackburn commented that it should not be forgotten that the development of North / South Quays will also provide employment opportunities.

The Divisional Director for Development replied that a strategic approach was being taken regarding transport, housing and employment within the area.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note the progress on the preparation of Plans within B&NES.

## **11 PRE-PLANNING APPLICATION PROCESS**

The Divisional Director for Development introduced this item to the Panel. She explained that pre-application advice is provided by planning officers and other specialist advisors within the planning department and other Council departments. She said that it is a non-statutory service and fees can be locally set which can generate additional income in order to cover the cost of providing the service.

She stated that the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 is clear in its expectations that planning authorities should engage pro-actively at pre-application stage. She said that early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. She added that good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community and the more issues that can be resolved at pre-application stage, the greater the benefits.

She said that following a full review of the pre-application service that was being offered pre-April 2016 the service was re-designed. She explained that this included



benchmarking with other Local Authorities in relation to the scale of fees charged for the pre application service and having regard to the special environment of Bath and North East Somerset. She said that instead of charging per hour the new schedule separates different proposals by size and complexity.

The Chairman asked how the service was monitored.

The Divisional Director for Development replied that Team Leaders review all of the officer responses.

Councillor Colin Blackburn commented that providing this service will make such a difference to the planning process. He asked how the work would be quantified.

The Divisional Director for Development replied that all discussions will be followed up in writing.

The Chairman asked if the service would be cost neutral.

The Divisional Director for Development replied that the intention was to cover the costs of providing the service.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note the progress of the pre-application service that launched in April 2016.

## 12 PANEL WORKPLAN

The workplan of the Panel was noted as printed.

The meeting ended at 4.55 pm

Chair(person) .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**

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<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>	
MEETING:	Planning, Housing and Economic Development PDS Panel
MEETING DATE:	Tuesday 6 September 2016
TITLE:	City of Bath World Heritage Site: Update on the draft replacement Management Plan & selected projects
WARD:	Bath and surrounding wards
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>	
Appendix 1: Summary of frequently raised consultation issues	

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 This is an update report on World Heritage Site (WHS) management in Bath. It concentrates on the current revision of the WHS Management Plan, progress of the 'Great Spas of Europe' project and the Archway project to deliver a World Site Heritage Interpretation Centre.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 This is an information item. The panel are asked to note the report contents.

## **3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report. Approved budgets relating to the emerging draft replacement WHS Management Plan and the Great Spas project are in place and the WHS Interpretation Centre is partially subject to fundraising and grants from external bodies. Costs associated with stakeholder engagement will be managed from within these existing budgets.
- 3.2 With regard to property, the buildings which will house the new learning centre and WH Interpretation Centre are within the Council's ownership. The capital project proposals will be progressed through the usual Council capital approval process.

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 There are no statutory requirements associated with WH inscription but UNESCO, as the body which inscribes and monitors sites, has operational guidelines which sites are expected to abide by. A link to these is provided at the end of this report.

## 5 THE REPORT

### Introduction

5.1 This report follows earlier submissions to this panel in July 2014/September 2015.

### The City of Bath World Heritage Site Management Plan

5.2 As noted in section 4.1 UNESCO guidelines stipulate that all sites should have an up to date management plan in place. UNESCO identifies the most significant places on the planet and then works to ensure that they are well managed. A management plan describes what the site comprises of, explains why it is of global importance, outlines the management systems in place to protect it and contain an action plan of necessary measures. It should be noted that the Plan is a document of the WHS Steering Group, so although the Council is the chief steward of the site this is not a Council document.

5.3 As anticipated in the report of November 2015, the management plan has now undergone full public consultation. The presence of recently launched social media platforms for Bath World Heritage (Twitter and Facebook accounts) were very useful in relaying news of the consultation, although most responses were received via the Council's on-line response system. It is interesting to note that all responses received were electronic or on forms at events, although a postal option was available.

5.4 The response level was good, with 98 responses received. These comprised of responses from 17 organisations, 5 Council departments and 3 Ward Councillors. When added to the list of issues captured during the pre-consultation stakeholder event (April 2015) this gives a total of 232 responses.

5.5 No responses challenged or dis-agreed with the priorities of the draft plan (managing development, transport, public realm, interpretation and education, environmental resilience). In this respect there have been no major alterations to the consultation draft document and this is considered to be in part due to the 'up front' work undertaken at the 2015 stakeholder event.

5.6 Although this is a heritage plan, comments were received on a wide variety of topics. A summary of these is shown at Appendix 1. The most frequently cited topic was transport and the most frequent issue was that of a potential Eastern Park and Ride (P&R) site. 58 of the 98 comments received included concern about a new P&R site. The WHS Management Plan defers to the Getting around Bath Transport Strategy (adopted 2014) to address transport matters, and does not contain site specific proposals itself. Therefore this Plan will not be the key document with regard to decisions over any such facility, but in response to concerns from consultation respondents several references to P&R have been amended or deleted to ensure that the Plan is neutral with regard to this matter.

5.7 The transport action in the plan was also modified to make it clearer. The action relating to flooding was strengthened in response to concerns by resident's associations, and a new action was added to monitor proposals for coach parking, which is currently under review. Wording of an action relating to accessibility and the historic environment was amended to be more inclusive.

5.8 In summary, the 'state of conservation' of the WHS is currently very good. There are very few buildings at risk and all of the key buildings and monuments are in good condition. Where there are challenges such as interpretation and management of the landscape, plans are in place including the Archway Centre and Bathscape project. The challenge therefore is currently how we deliver further growth and improvement without compromising the heritage. The focus has moved more toward maintaining good standards and moving forward with care.

#### The Great Spas of Europe

5.9 As previously reported to this panel, Bath is engaged in a project entitled the 'Great Spas of Europe'. In 2007 the Czech Government approached UNESCO with a proposal to have 3 of their spa towns inscribed on the WH list for the contribution that they had made to European culture. UNESCO welcomed the idea, but asked that the best examples of spas across Europe be identified to demonstrate this cultural contribution. Subsequently a group of leading European spas was formed and Bath sits within that group.

5.10 At the last report Bath's involvement in the project was subject to an evaluation by the UK Government (Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)). The evaluation panel decision was received in January 2016, with DCMS confirming that 'the Minister fully supports the continued development of your proposals for the possible inclusion of Bath as a UK component in the series and wishes you every success in doing so'.

5.11 In addition to clearing the above hurdle, a second challenge was to reduce the 16 spas in the project group to a smaller number in line with UNESCO advice. This was undertaken by means of a comparative analysis assessing all candidates against set criteria. This analysis ranked 7 of the 16 spas worthy of progression. Bath was ranked joint first (alongside Karlovy Vary). The Czech Republic Government called a meeting of all state party representatives and reached agreement on a group of 11. This was announced at a subsequent meeting of the mayors in Prague in May 2016. This process worked well, in that the disappointed mayors were told at the meeting that if they had any questions about their failure to make the submission group, these should be addressed to their relevant governments who had agreed the decision. In fact, the rejected parties took the decision well and wished the remaining towns every success.

5.12 The project group now comprises of Bath, Baden-Baden (Germany), Bad Ems (Germany), Bad Kissingen (Germany), Baden bei Wien (Austria), Františkovy Lázně (CZ), Karlovy Vary (CZ), Mariánské Lázně (CZ), Montecatini Terme (I), Spa (Belgium), Vichy (France). The disappointed candidates are Luhacovice (CZ), Wiesbaden (Germany), Bad Homburg (Germany), Bad Ischl (Austria), Bad Pyrmont (Germany). Work will now concentrate on putting together the bid, which will need a draft management plan and governance arrangements to be proposed. With regard to Bath this work will draw heavily on existing arrangements. The formal nomination to UNESCO is programmed for early 2018.

5.13 In terms of the Brexit vote, the official message from DCMS is that this will not impact upon the project, which should proceed as normal.

## The World Heritage Interpretation Centre

- 5.14 As previously reported Heritage Services are progressing a project to deliver a new learning centre within grade II listed Victorian former laundry buildings immediately south of the Roman Great Bath (off York Street and Swallow Street). As part of this 'Archway' project, the current retail unit on York Street (currently a leather chair showroom) will become a World Heritage Interpretation Centre.
- 5.15 A number of important milestones in relation to this project can be confirmed. Planning permission and listed building consent applications were submitted and a decision is due on 2 September 2016. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) round 2 funding submission has also been made, and their SW Committee will make an assessment visit on 6 September. A result of the funding application should be known around the 28<sup>th</sup> of September. 93% of the required match funding for the HLF bid has now been raised.

## **6 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Council's Strategic Director of Place, Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report.
- 6.2 No further consultation has been undertaken for this information report.

## **7 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendation is not considered necessary in this instance.

<b>Contact person</b>	Tony Crouch, World Heritage Manager. 01225 477584
<b>Background papers</b>	The World Heritage Site Management Plan (2010-2016) and the Steering Group composition can be seen at: <a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/worldheritage">www.bathnes.gov.uk/worldheritage</a>  UNESCO Operating Guidelines (2015): <a href="http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/">http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/</a>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	

## APPENDIX 1

### Summary of issues raised through consultation on the draft World Heritage Site Management Plan (May – July 2016)

Recorded below is a summary of the main issues raised in the 98 responses received during public consultation. The number in brackets indicates where there was obvious multiple mention of the same issue.

TRANSPORT	
1.	Bathampton Meadows P&R objection (x 58)
2.	Tackle school run traffic, use school buses (x 9)
3.	Address pollution and air quality (x 8)
4.	Improve rail links (x 7)
5.	Improved rail links (x 7)
6.	Road Space re-allocation (provide cycle lanes) (x 6)
7.	Introduce a congestion charge/zone (x 5)
8.	Better bus services (x 5)
9.	Safer cycling (x 5)
10.	Alternative sites for an Eastern P&R (x 4)
11.	Tackle the HGV problem in the city (x 4)
12.	Build an A36/46 link (x 3)
13.	Coach parking (lack of) (x 2)
14.	Need a proper cycle lane on London Road (x 2)
15.	Build a bypass (x 2)
16.	Improve bus services into the city from outlying villages and towns (x 2)
17.	Affordable public transport (x 2)
18.	Introduce a workplace parking levy as Nottingham have done
19.	Support for engaging with Wiltshire on traffic issues
20.	Reduce traffic and air pollution
21.	Increase bike and pedestrian routes
22.	Cycle and local bus links to the Park and Ride Sites
23.	More cycle parking
24.	Bike hire stations on the outskirts of the city
25.	The impact of cycling is not universally positive
26.	Support for pedestrianisation of the High Street
27.	More traffic calming
28.	Through traffic toll charge
29.	Reduce traffic noise
30.	Concern over closure of boat moorings near Pulteney Weir
31.	Introduce river ferry
32.	Better management of roadworks
33.	Improved footpaths
34.	Use devolution to regain control over buses
35.	Use Electric buses
MANAGING DEVELOPMENT	
36.	Concern over student numbers/housing (x 10)
37.	Protect green spaces (x 6)
38.	Affordable housing needed (x 3)
39.	Avoid poor modern architecture (x 3)
40.	Planning Committee/key decision makers should be better informed/trained (x 2)

41.	Too much development	(x 3)
42.	Prevent urban sprawl	(x 2)
43.	Architectural competitions should be held	
44.	Large monolithic blocks (Riverside) should be avoided	
45.	Gated communities at Bath Riverside form a bad precedent	
46.	Support for building in Georgian style (Green Park)	
47.	Pastiche new buildings should be avoided	
48.	Further work needed on LED street lighting	
49.	Support for dressing the city with flags and banners	
50.	Pressure to build new housing should be addressed	
51.	The skyline should be protected from development	
52.	Proliferation of retail outlets is bad	
53.	Develop brown field sites first	
54.	Building height controls may need to be relaxed	
55.	The protection of the city should take precedence over protection of the setting, where there is conflict.	
56.	Develop the northern slopes and Lansdown before sprawling South	
57.	Perceived conflict between Council as developer and planning authority	
58.	Need for greater planning enforcement	
59.	Concern about development at the Rugby Ground	
60.	New jobs needed	
	<b>PUBLIC REALM</b>	
61.	Lack of attention to the riverside	(x 2)
62.	Apply principles (i.e. quality design) to all parts of the city, not just centre	
63.	Solar Compactor bins are good	
64.	Protect/sustain communities	
65.	Public Realm and Movement Strategy should be funded and implemented	
66.	Potential to create city quarters	
67.	More small parks are needed	
68.	Clean up unsightly spaces	
69.	Improve the ugly weir side	
70.	Pedestrianise Pulteney Bridge	
	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIANCE</b>	
71.	Concern about Flooding	(x 3)
72.	Protect against Fracking	(x 2)
73.	Greater protection of wildlife	
74.	Tackle energy efficiency and carbon emissions	
	<b>CONSERVATION</b>	
75.	Protect what is unique about Bath	(x 6)
76.	Transfer Bathampton Meadows to the National Trust	
	<b>VISITOR MANAGEMENT</b>	
77.	Too many tourists	(x 2)
78.	Visitor tax (support for)	
79.	Tourist needs are placed above locals	
80.	Visitors must not create pollution	
81.	A dedicated tourism marketing organisation is required	
	<b>EDUCATION</b>	
82.	Need for ongoing education in heritage matters	
	<b>OTHER</b>	
83.	Concern over Street drinking, street living, busking, begging and litter	(x 2)
84.	Support for independent shops	(x 2)



85.	Plan for local food production
86.	Tackle anti-social drinking
87.	Plan for population growth
88.	Provide a better local discount to Thermae Bath Spa, built with Bath taxpayers money
89.	More arts and recreational facilities
90.	The refuse collection system should be reviewed
91.	Over provision of souvenir shops

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<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>		
MEETING	<b>Planning, Housing and Economic Development, Policy Development &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b>	
DATE:	<b>6 September 2016</b>	
TITLE:	<b>Archives Centre</b>	
WARD:	<b>Abbey</b>	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
List of attachments to this report:	<b>N/a</b>	

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to apprise the Panel of the work undertaken to date towards creating a Local History Centre for Bath and North East Somerset in line with best practice elsewhere.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Panel note the report.

## **3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 3.1 The report is for information only and there are no resource implications at this time.
- 3.2 There is no provision in the Capital Programme or the emerging Capital Programme for a Local History Centre.
- 3.3 Revenue budgets currently accommodate costs related to managing archives under the existing arrangements.
- 3.4 A business case outlining the impacts and benefits, including the financial impact on the revenue budgets, would be required to be taken through usual Council approval processes if a new facility project were to be taken forward.

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 The Council is empowered to collect archives under the *Local Government (Records) Act 1962*, the *Local Government Act 1972*, ss.224-229 and the *Local Government Reorganisation (Property Etc.) Order 1986 s.12*. Bath Record Office is appointed as a 'place of deposit' under the *Public Records Act 1958* for certain public records specified in that Act and will collect those public records.

- 4.2 The Heritage Services Service Plan 2016/17 includes an action: “Within the Council’s wider accommodation strategy develop the one-stop-shop History Centre concept for the Record Office and Bath Library local history collections”.

## 5 THE REPORT

### Background.

- 5.1 Bath Record Office was formed in 1967 to care for the archives of the Council, to build collections of unique original records relating to the city of Bath, and to make them available to the public. It is housed in, and has outgrown, inadequate and inaccessible premises in the Guildhall basement in Bath. The Office now has over 3km of historical records, the earliest dating to 1189.
- 5.2 The Record Office collections are recognised as being of great importance. The World Heritage Site Management Plan recognised “the exceptional quality and completeness of the Record Office archive collections” in documenting the development of the city from medieval market town to today’s vibrant city, one of Britain’s prime urban landscapes and top visitor destinations. The Plan has also identified the urgent need for improved accommodation for and access to the collection.
- 5.3 In 2005 the Record Office archive collections were awarded Designated status by the Museums Libraries & Archives Council (MLA), in recognition of their value in documenting the history of the city. Designation is Government’s way of recognising collections in the regions that are of national and international importance. Bath is one of only three unitary authority record offices whose entire collections enjoy this status.
- 5.4 Bath Central Library’s Local Studies collection is part of the Council’s public library service. Much of its content was donated to the City of Bath in the 19<sup>th</sup> century before the creation of the first public reference library in 1900 and lending library in 1921. The collection includes items of local or historic interest including books, images, newspapers, maps and other ephemeral material. There is a degree of overlap between this collection and the archives collection in Bath Record Office and many customers need access to both resources.

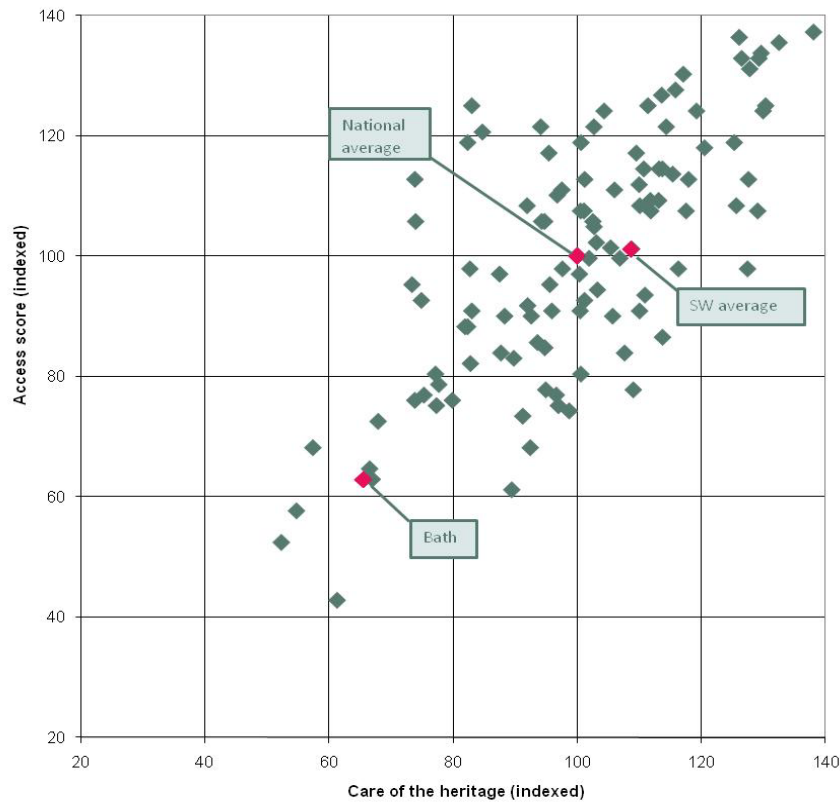
### Recent Activity.

- 5.5 In recent years the Record Office has been successful in attracting external funding. In 2014-15 a grant of £41k from the National Cataloguing Grants Programme for Archives funded the creation of online catalogues of 800 years of Council records, assisted by a team of 25 volunteers. The results can be seen at [www.batharchives.co.uk/our-collections](http://www.batharchives.co.uk/our-collections).
- 5.6 In 2015-16 a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £74.7k funded *Our Heritage, Your Story*, a community outreach project that engaged community groups across Bath and North East Somerset, including the Riverside Youth Hub which made a film about the project, and the Black Families Educational Support Group which worked on a project about black people in Georgian Bath and the city’s role in the anti-slavery movement. Currently a programme of reminiscence sessions is being held with the Bath and Ethnic Minorities Senior Citizens Association.

- 5.7 Outreach projects have included a public Open Days and day courses at Paulton, Midsomer Norton and Keynsham Libraries and Bath Guildhall, as well as attending roadshows at Farmborough, Hinton Charterhouse, Peasedown St. John, South Stoke, Swainswick, Westfield and Weston.
- 5.8 The HLF-funded project also included eight free day course on Family History which were heavily oversubscribed, leading to further courses being arranged. A further grant of £5k from the Medlock Foundation will fund more outreach work in 2017 with day courses on Family History in Peasedown St. John, Midsomer Norton, Keynsham and Bath.
- 5.9 In 2016 the Bath Festival Fringe Arts programme included *Out of the Archive*, an exhibition by nine artists inspired by the Record Office collections.
- 5.10 Over the summer of 2016 the Record Office has hosted 'drop-in' opportunities for Council staff, with 32 attending over four days.
- 5.11 2017 will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the opening of Bath Record Office in 1967.

#### **The case for a Local History Centre.**

- 5.12 In 2002 the Culture & Leisure Time Best Value Review recommended that the Council create "a centre of excellence for local and family studies". Following on from this, Record Office and Libraries staff undertook a survey of Record Office and Library users which revealed overwhelming support for the creation of a dedicated Local Studies Centre in which the Record Office and the Library's Local Studies and Special collections would be brought together.
- 5.13 In January 2007 a stakeholder workshop was convened to look at the possibility of bringing together the Record Office collections and Bath Central Library local studies collection into a one-stop-shop centre of excellence. The seminar looked at examples of best practice elsewhere in the UK where similar facilities have been brought together in this way.
- 5.14 In February 2008 a Briefing Note was prepared for the Cabinet Member (Tourism Leisure & Culture) outlining the urgent case for additional space and improved facilities for the Council's important archive collections.
- 5.15 Following the stakeholder workshop and with the agreement of the Cabinet Member, officers commissioned a feasibility study with the brief
- "to identify the options available to the Council for the creation of a public research, study and information facility based upon its internationally important Archives and Local Studies collections and recommend the option that offers the most cost effective solution, the best public service and the highest standard of collections care."*
- 5.16 The report was undertaken by David Bournnell Associates (DBA) and published in 2010. It highlighted the assessment of regional archives made by The National Archives (TNA) in respect of their access arrangements and the level of care they are able to offer their collections. This is shown in the graph below.



- 5.17 The TNA report also found that many of the better-performing archives in the South West region offer an integrated service combining archives with local studies material, along the lines envisaged of a new Local History Centre.
- 5.18 The DBA report identified the minimum requirements for a combined new facility as being a secure environmentally-controlled facility with a total of 1,290 m<sup>2</sup> space, comprising 780 m<sup>2</sup> collections storage, 345 m<sup>2</sup> public space (reception, toilets, search facilities, etc); and 169 m<sup>2</sup> for staff and service areas. This would allow for 20 years expansion space. [As a result of ongoing deposition of archives in the Record Office, the overall space requirement was revised upwards in 2014 to 1,651 m<sup>2</sup>.]
- 5.19 The feasibility study by DBA took place at a time when the future use of the Guildhall was under review. Their report concluded that, if major changes of use were to be considered for the Guildhall, a new combined Record Office and local studies collection, perhaps alongside other heritage attractions, should be considered as an important part of the development. However, if other plans for the Guildhall were adopted, DBA recommended that the Council seek to develop a Local History Centre on an accessible site either on the outskirts of the city (less central but lower land values and likelihood of parking) or in the city centre. None of these options were costed.
- 5.20 In 2011 the Leader of Council asked the Cabinet Member (Sustainable Development) to convene a working group to consult with users, draw up a vision for a Local History Centre and recommend a way forward. The working group comprised the Cabinet Member, Head of Heritage Services, Principal Archivist, Libraries & Information Manager, Trevor Osborne of the Trevor Osborne Group, representatives of Bath Abbey and Bath Preservation Trust and a freelance researcher / regular service user.

5.21 The working group drew up the following vision for the project:

*To create a world-class History Centre that brings together the unique Record Office archives and the resources of the local studies library. In an imaginative new-build or conversion, visible, accessible and situated in the heart of Bath, the History Centre will engage new audiences and improve the service offered to the existing very active user base.*

5.22 The working group also sought the advice of the Council's Commercial Estate Manager and Regeneration Team Leader regarding the likely availability and cost of suitable sites where a History Centre could be built or converted from an existing building. It became clear that opportunities for a stand-alone development of this kind, where there is limited space available and land values are high, are unlikely to be found in central Bath. It was concluded that the best prospect of developing a History Centre would be as part of a larger development or regeneration project. This remains the current position.

5.23 In 2014/15 the Leader and Chief Executive approved a 10:100 project to amalgamate the Record Office archive collections with the Library's Local Studies collection in the Guildhall using vacated space in the north wing basement. Work on this project is under way but it is not seen as a long-term solution to the need for a Local History Centre fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### **The need.**

5.24 The public appetite for information about building history and genealogy has never been stronger, driven in part by TV programmes about building restoration projects and family history.

5.25 Despite being home to a 'Designated' collection, the Record Office does not meet all the requirements of TNA's Standard for Record Repositories. It scores very low in premises, facilities and governance, although it is approved to hold public records on TNA's behalf. However in CIPFA surveys the quality of public service at Bath Record Office has been voted by users the best of any archive in the South West region.

5.26 Bath Record Office is the only South West archive not to have had a refit in the last 25 years. Its archive stores are full and it currently makes use of any additional space that becomes available in the Guildhall on an ad hoc basis. Other than the 10:100 project mentioned at 5.17 above there is currently no strategic plan for development.

#### **The bigger picture.**

5.27 Around the UK numerous local authorities have recognised the importance of their archives by creating centres of excellence where their collections are stored in optimum conditions to ensure their preservation in perpetuity, and where people can study them in secure and user-friendly search rooms. A characteristic of these new developments is that no two are alike as they each bring together complementary collections and services from their own areas. A selection of examples include:

- Norfolk County Council (2004): a partnership with the University of East Anglia that created the Norfolk County Archive on the university campus at Norwich;

it also accommodates the East Anglian Film Archive and the Norfolk Sound Archive. It received a grant of £4.3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

- Wiltshire & Swindon Councils (2007): a £11m partnership that created the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre at Chippenham to house their archive collections. It also incorporated the County's museums office, archaeology service and historic buildings team.
- Wolverhampton City Council (2009): a £7.5m partnership project between the Council, English Heritage and the Advantage West Midlands RDA to restore the grade II\* listed Molineux Hotel that had stood derelict for nearly 25 years and house Wolverhampton Record Office in it. The project included a grant of £3.3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- Somerset County Council (2010): twin £15m capital projects to create the Museum of Somerset at Taunton Castle and Somerset Heritage Centre on an industrial estate on the outskirts of the town; the latter brings together the offices of the County's archives, local studies, museums, historic environment and Victoria County History departments.
- Worcester City Council (2012): a £60m partnership between the Council and the University of Worcester to create 'The Hive' to house an integrated public and university library, the first of its kind in Europe. The Hive also accommodates the Council's archive and archaeology services and the one-stop shop for all Council services. The project included £14m of PFI funding.
- Devon County Council (2012): Devon Heritage Centre opened on the outskirts of Exeter on the site of the Devon Record Office (itself a new development in 2005) beside the city's eastern Park + Ride and very close to the M5 Jn29. It brought together the archive collections of Devon Record Office and East Devon Record Office with the local studies collections of the West Country Studies Library, Exeter City Library and the Devon & Cornwall Record Society.
- Cornwall Council (2015): £11.7m HLF award for a planned new County Archives Centre in a partnership project with Redruth Town Council and a private sector partner. The Council is putting in £4.6m. The project will bring together the collections of Cornwall Record Office, the Cornish Studies Library, Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record, the 'Designated' archives of Hard Rock Mining and significant works on the Cornish language.
- Plymouth City Council (2016): in August 2016 HLF announced an award of £14.8m for a new £34m Plymouth Heritage Centre to be developed as a partnership project between the Council and the University of Plymouth. It will bring together the collections of the City Museum & Art Gallery, Plymouth & West Devon Record Office, the Central Library Local History collections, the South West Film & TV Archive, the South West Image Bank, and some of the Naval Heritage Centre collections in Devonport. There will be a contemporary arts programme curated by the University's Peninsula Arts.

## **6 RATIONALE**

- 6.1 A single Local History Centre is the preferred choice of service users and stakeholders. It would achieve efficiencies and economies of scale and would provide



the storage conditions that the archive collections need and the search facilities that the service users deserve and have become accustomed to elsewhere.

- 6.2 A new Local History Centre would align with the themes of the Corporate Strategy 2016-2020, in particular 'A New Relationship with Customers and Communities' and 'An Efficient Business'.

## **7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 7.1 None.

## **8 CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The s151 Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report. The DBA report of 2009/10 involved considerable consultation with service users and other archive holders in the district. Visitor feedback continues to be monitored and, where necessary, acted upon on an ongoing basis.

## **9 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

<b>Contact person</b>	Stephen Bird, Head of Heritage Services (01225) 477750
<b>Background papers</b>	N/a
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	

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## PLANNING, HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

This Forward Plan lists all the items coming to the Panel over the next few months.

Inevitably, some of the published information may change; Government guidance recognises that the plan is a best assessment, at the time of publication, of anticipated decision making. The online Forward Plan is updated regularly and can be seen on the Council's website at:

<http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mgPlansHome.aspx?bcr=1>

The Forward Plan demonstrates the Council's commitment to openness and participation in decision making. It assists the Panel in planning their input to policy formulation and development, and in reviewing the work of the Cabinet.

*Should you wish to make representations, please contact the report author or Mark Durnford, Democratic Services (01225 394458). A formal agenda will be issued 5 clear working days before the meeting.*

*Agenda papers can be inspected on the Council's website and at the Guildhall (Bath), Hollies (Midsomer Norton), Civic Centre (Keynsham) and at Bath Central, Keynsham and Midsomer Norton public libraries.*



Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Strategic Director Lead
<b>6TH SEPTEMBER 2016</b>				
6 Sep 2016	PHED PDS	Local Development Framework Updates	Lisa Bartlett, Simon De Beer Tel: 01225 477281, Tel: 01225 477616	Strategic Director - Place
6 Sep 2016	PHED PDS	World Heritage Status - 2nd Inscription	Tony Crouch. Tel: 01225 477584	Strategic Director - Place
6 Sep 2016	PHED PDS	Archive Centre	Stephen Bird Tel: 01225 477750	Strategic Director - Place
<b>1ST NOVEMBER 2016</b>				
1 Nov 2016	PHED PDS	Somer Valley Enterprise Area	John Wilkinson Tel: 01225 396593	Strategic Director - Place
<b>10TH JANUARY 2017</b>				
<b>7TH MARCH 2017</b>				
7 Mar 2017	PHED PDS	Permitted Development	Lisa Bartlett Tel: 01225 477281	Strategic Director - Place
<b>2ND MAY 2017</b>				

<b>Ref Date</b>	<b>Decision Maker/s</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Report Author Contact</b>	<b>Strategic Director Lead</b>
2 May 2017	PHED PDS	Placemaking Plan	John Wilkinson Tel: 01225 396593	Strategic Director - Place
2 May 2017	PHED PDS	Heritage Services (Victoria Art Gallery / Fashion Museum)	Stephen Bird Tel: 01225 477750	Strategic Director - Place
<b>ITEMS YET TO BE SCHEDULED</b>				
	PHED PDS	Housing & Planning Act	Lisa Bartlett Tel: 01225 477281	Strategic Director - Place
Page 38	PHED PDS	Article 4 Policy	John Wilkinson Tel: 01225 396593	Strategic Director - Place
	PHED PDS	Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases	John Wilkinson Tel: 01225 396593	Strategic Director - Place
	PHED PDS	South West Housing Providers Longitudinal Welfare Reform Study	Graham Sabourn Tel: 01225 477949	Strategic Director - Place
	PHED PDS	Review of KPIs - Housing Performance Reports	Graham Sabourn Tel: 01225 477949	Strategic Director - Place
	PHED PDS	Water Study - report back at significant milestones	Cleo Newcombe-Jones Tel: 01225 477617	Strategic Director - Place

Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Strategic Director Lead
The Forward Plan is administered by <b>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES</b> : Mark Durnford 01225 394458 Democratic_Services@bathnes.gov.uk				

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