

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	14 November 2012	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2416
TITLE:	City of Bath World Heritage Site Setting Supplementary Planning Document	
WARD:	All Bath Wards and Wards surrounding the City (Bathavon North, Bathavon West, Farmborough and Bathavon South)	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1: Consultation Draft of the City of Bath World Heritage Site Setting Supplementary Planning Document (can also be viewed at www.bathnes.gov.uk/settingofbath) Appendix 2: Consultation Report including key issues and proposed changes		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The City of Bath World Heritage Site Setting Supplementary Planning Document provides guidance in support of policies for protecting the World Heritage Site and its setting. Its preparation has involved extensive consultation and is now ready for adoption. Approval is requested from the Cabinet to the proposed key changes and response to the key issues as outlined in the Consultation Report in Appendix 2 and approval to adopt the document as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The proposed changes address comments made through the Public Consultation which was carried out between 28th May and 6th July 2012.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees that:

2.1 The changes to the Draft City of Bath World Heritage Site Setting Supplementary Planning Document as outlined in the Consultation Report in Appendix 2 are approved and that the amended document is adopted as a SPD to policies BH.1 of the Bath and North East Somerset Council Local Plan and B4 of the Core Strategy once it is adopted.

2.2 Delegated authority is given to the Divisional Director for Planning and Transport Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning, to make minor text changes and minor design changes to the layout, if required, and for the inclusion of the rest of the appendices and changes to the selection of photos to the SPD.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The costs for producing the document, about £3,000, are being met out of the existing Local Development Framework budget. Staff costs associated with the production of this report have been included within staffing budgets. The document gives guidance in support of existing policies and will speed up decision making and give greater certainty for developers. There are no additional financial costs as a result of preparing, adopting and implementing the document as a SPD.

4 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The document supports the objectives of *Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone, Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and Building a stronger economy* by maintaining and enhancing the quality of the environment surrounding Bath. This fosters a sense of belonging to a local community, provides opportunities for recreation and so contributing to a healthy lifestyle and attracting businesses, shoppers and tourists. The objective of protection of the setting therefore not only has value in protecting the historic authenticity of the World Heritage Site but also contributes directly to the economy, health and welfare of the city and its surrounding villages and its residents.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The consultation draft can be viewed on the Council's website at: www.bathnes.gov.uk/settingofbath
- 5.2 The key purpose of the SPD is to provide information and guidance for the effective protection and appropriate management of the setting. It does not introduce a new policy or designation but supplements existing policy agreed by Council. To do this it
- Shows where the setting is
 - Defines what is important about the setting and
 - Outlines how to assess impacts on the setting
- 5.2 It is intended for use both by developers and the Council in assessing development proposals affecting the setting of the World Heritage Site. It is also intended for use by landowners and managers of land when considering proposals for change and when considering management operations. It is also hoped it will be of interest to residents and visitors in appreciating the relationship of the surroundings of Bath to the city.
- 5.4 It has been prepared in line with current international and national policy and guidance including the *National Planning Policy Framework, Circular 07/2009 on the Protection of World Heritage Sites, The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* and English Heritage guidance 'The Setting of Heritage Assets' and 'Seeing the History in the View' and with the benefit of experience from other World Heritage Sites.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found. The provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 have also been taken into account and it is considered that the adoption of the SPD will not directly impact upon any of the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights.

8 RATIONALE

8.1 The SPD supplements policies BH.1 of the Bath and North East Somerset Council Local Plan and B4 of the Core Strategy once it is adopted. The document gives guidance on considering development and other proposals affecting the setting of the World Heritage Site and therefore is intended to speed up decision making and give greater certainty for developers.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 The alternative option of not having a SPD would result in the Council not having sufficient guidance making it difficult to implement the policies mentioned in 8.1 above.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 *Ward Councillor; Cabinet members; Parish Council; Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer*

10.2 Consultation was carried out between 28th May and 6th July 2012 and included a stakeholder workshop, mailings to local and statutory consultees, deposit of the document in libraries and Council offices, details on the Council website and press notices. The document has received positive support including from English Heritage. Details of the consultation and stakeholder involvement are given in the Consultation Report in Appendix 2.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 *Customer Focus; Sustainability;*

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	David Trigwell, Divisional Director Planning and Transport Development 01225 394125
Sponsoring Cabinet Member	Councillor Tim Ball (Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning)
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	