



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Planning Policy Committee – 28 March 2011

Shared Statement of Ambition for the Historic Environment in East Northamptonshire

Purpose of report

This report seeks the committee's views and approval of the proposed 'shared statement of ambition' for the historic environment in East Northamptonshire.

Attachment(s)

Appendix: Proposed Shared Statement of Ambition for East Northamptonshire

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The council has been approached by English Heritage, on behalf of the East Midlands Heritage Forum (a group consisting of key heritage organisations (chaired by English Heritage)), to prepare a 'shared statement of ambition' for the historic environment in East Northamptonshire. All local authorities within the East Midlands have been approached.
- 1.2 The concept of 'shared statements of ambition' was born out of the Northamptonshire Heritage Summit held in 2008.

2.0 The Statement

- 2.1 A 'shared statement of ambition' is essentially an agreement of priorities involving key partners. It will provide, among other things, evidence of agreed priorities to support funding bids, a focus for resource allocation and partnership working.
- 2.2 Each 'Statement of Ambition' aims to:
 - Set the local context for management of the historic environment, through an assessment of local policies, resources and practices
 - Identify priorities for future partnership work and engagement
 - Provide a focus for advocacy, negotiation and consensus-building between English Heritage, the East Midlands Heritage Forum, local authorities and the local community
 - Strengthen effectiveness of local historic environment services, Forum members and partners in achieving priorities
 - Provide the organisations and individuals responsible for economic, social and environmental policy and investment with a clear understanding of the priorities and opportunities which the historic environment presents
 - Clarify the support local authorities and their partners need from English Heritage and other agencies.
- 2.3 The statement can be reviewed at any time to reflect new priorities and commitments. The purpose is not to bind the council to any of the proposals, but rather to demonstrate to potential funders and other key agencies, what projects the council has an ambition to undertake, and the partners that are already signed up to progress them.
- 2.4 English Heritage proposes that the statements should be reviewed regularly, possibly annually, to ensure that the local ambitions are still valid, and to monitor progress in realising them.

2.5 The proposed statement of ambition for East Northamptonshire is appended to this report. The priorities suggested for inclusion represent strategic through to site-specific issues. A number of the priorities also reflect existing work. The timetable proposed is not binding.

2.6 Where appropriate, projects may also be incorporated into other strategies and documents, such as the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

3.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

3.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from the proposals.

4.0 Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

5.0 Risk Management

5.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the proposals.

7.0 Corporate Outcomes

7.1 The proposals will contribute to the achievement of the following corporate outcomes:

- Good Quality of Life - Sustainable
- Effective Partnership Working
- Effective Management
- Good Reputation.

8.0 Recommendation

8.1 It is recommended that, subject to the committee's views, the Proposed Shared Statement of Ambition for East Northamptonshire be approved. *(Reason - The option proposed aligns most closely with the Council's Corporate Outcomes).*

Legal	Power: Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990				
	Other considerations:				
Background Papers:					
Person Originating Report: Lloyd Mills, Senior Conservation Officer, lmills@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk, 01832 74213					
Date: 2 March 2011					
CFO		MO		CX	

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 22)

STATEMENT of AMBITION for the HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT in East Northamptonshire

SHARED STATEMENTS OF AMBITION for the historic environment set out a local and regional strategy for realising the benefits of heritage for people, the economy and future development.

Part A: The context for heritage identifies the common policy and funding context within which local ambitions can be realised throughout the East Midlands.

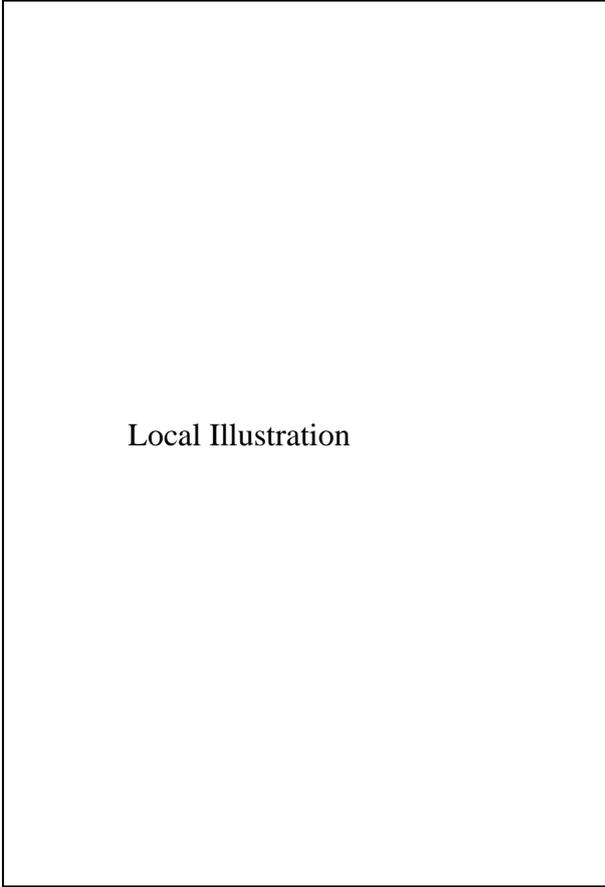
Part B: Local priorities sets out specific opportunities and challenges in each local authority area.

Part C: Realising local ambition provides hands-on guidance to help practitioners in the region turn ambition into reality.

Part A

This statement has been prepared jointly between East Northamptonshire Council and the East Midlands Heritage Forum, with support and assistance from English Heritage. It provides an achievable vision for the future protection and enhancement of the historic environment in East Northamptonshire in order to assist future policy initiatives and delivery mechanisms.

The vision comprises a series of objectives in the form of priorities for management and outcomes, (sites and schemes), brought together in an action plan linked to funding sources and delivery mechanisms.



Local Illustration

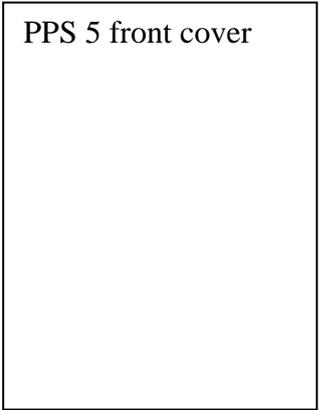
National policy: Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5)

At present the policy for the historic environment is set out in PPS 5 and the accompanying Practice guide which were published in 2010. Government has announced its intentions to publish a National Planning Framework together with a single PPS and this may emerge in 2011.

The Government's objectives for planning for the historic environment as set out in PPS 5 are:

- To deliver sustainable development by ensuring that all policies and decisions concerning the historic environment:
 - Recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource;
 - Take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation
 - Recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be managed for the long term.
- To conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance by ensuring that:
 - Decisions are based on the nature, extent and level of that significance, investigated to a degree proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset
 - Wherever possible, heritage assets are put to an appropriate and viable use that is consistent with their conservation
 - The positive contribution of such heritage assets to the local character and sense of place is recognised and valued; and
 - Consideration of the historic environment is integrated into planning policies, promoting place shaping
- To contribute to our knowledge and understanding of the past by ensuring that opportunities are taken to capture evidence from the historic environment and to make this publicly available, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

PPS 5 front cover



This is **Part B** of the statement for East Northamptonshire. It has been prepared jointly by East Northamptonshire Council and the East Midlands Heritage Forum, which brings together organisations interested in heritage, regeneration and public services across the East Midlands.

County-wide policy:

Northamptonshire's Sustainable Community Strategy

(2008) includes a vision that identifies the County as a place for people to celebrate history, heritage and local identity, and includes an aim to improve and preserve buildings and the countryside for future generations. There is recognition that change and growth will need to mix with tradition and to achieve this there is a commitment to 'promote and improve buildings and landscape that are special to Northamptonshire. These include:

- The historic towns of Oundle and Towcester;....
- Areas where boots and shoes used to be made;...'

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Council/ppp/Documents/PDF%20Documents/SCSbrochure19jan09.pdf>

District-wide policy:

North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy (2008)

includes reference to the protection of the historic environment.

Policy 5 Green Infrastructure: 'Sub-regional Green Infrastructure corridors will connect locations of natural and historic heritage, green space, biodiversity or other environmental interest.'

Policy 13 General Sustainable Development Principles:

'Development should:

- h) Be of a high standard of design, architecture and landscaping, respect and enhance the character of its surroundings and be in accordance with the Environmental Character of the area
- i) Create a strong sense of place by strengthening the distinctive historic and cultural qualities and townscape of the towns and villages through its design, landscaping and use of public art
- o) Conserve and enhance the landscape character, historic landscape designated built environmental assets and their settings, and biodiversity of the environment making reference to the Environmental Character Assessment and Green Infrastructure Strategy.'

<http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/docs/Adopted%20CSS%20Final%20Proof.pdf>

North Northamptonshire Sustainable Design SPD (2009)

includes references to respecting natural heritage, built heritage culture and heritage character.

<http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/docs/Sustainable%20Design%20SPD%20-%20low%20res%20June%202009.pdf>

Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan (Inspector's modifications July 2009 (found sound but not yet adopted))

Policy 13: Buildings of Local Architectural or Historic Interest: when considering proposals which affect a building of local

architectural or historic interest or its setting, these will only be acceptable where:

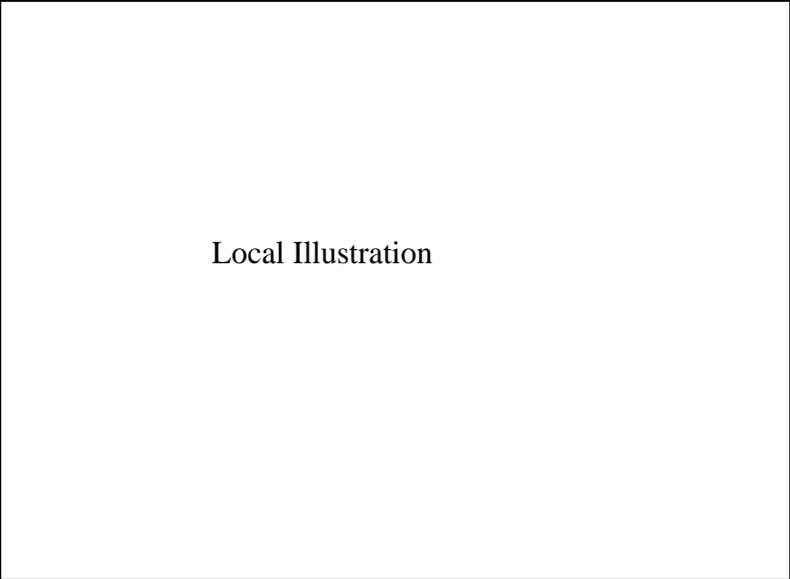
- a. the character, appearance and historic interest and integrity of the building is safeguarded;
- b. the setting of the building is preserved or enhanced.

http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/downloads/Item_5_-_Report_RNOTP_Adoption_Revised_.pdf

East Northamptonshire's Sustainable Community Strategy (2008)

Between 2008 and 2015 the focus is on achieving outcomes including improved natural and physical environment.

http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/downloads/Published_copy.pdf



Local Illustration

East Northamptonshire Council's Corporate Plan, 2008-2011

Includes the following priority outcomes:

- Rushden Regeneration
- Improved Market Towns
- High quality built environment

Priorities and outcomes

Project	Outcome	Action by end 2011	Funding and policy commitment / proposal / aspiration	<u>Lead and partners</u>
Rushden Town Centre Regeneration	Grant scheme in place for the repair and conservation of historic buildings	Funding secured through Heritage Lottery Fund's THI scheme	<u>Commitment:</u> The Rushden Regeneration is one of the Council's Corporate Priorities.	EH, ENC, HLF
Design statements and master-planning for historic settlements	Work with the local community to develop design statements and/or masterplans for historic settlements	Commence work in identified areas	<u>Commitment:</u> Work has commenced in respect of some areas, namely, Rushden, Oundle, Raunds and Irthlingborough	EH, ENC, Respective Town/Parish Councils and Community Groups
Availability of Collyweston Stone Slate	A strategy for the production of new slates	Hold meeting to agree way forward.	<u>Aspiration:</u> no strategy at present so the commitment has to be established and taken forward.	EH, ENC, NCC Minerals Planning, Collyweston Stone Slaters' Trust, Burghley Estate

Apethorpe Hall (Grade I Listed)	A strategy for the continued restoration of the house and maintenance/management for the future.	Strategy in place with partners signed up.	<u>Commitment:</u> EH own the building and are taking forward a prioritised programme of phased repairs with a view to re-marketing in future. ENC has an adopted planning brief for the site (adopted 1996 and updated 2008).	EH, ENC.
Lilford Hall (Grade I Listed)	A strategy for the restoration of the building and maintenance/management for the future.	Strategy in place with partners signed up.	<u>Aspiration:</u> no strategy at present. Hall is currently on the EH Buildings at Risk Register.	EH, ENC, Owner of Hall
Ashton Estate	A masterplan in place for future management of the estate	Investigate the possibility of producing such a plan with partners	<u>Aspiration:</u> no strategy at present so the commitment has to be established and taken forward. Applications for development of the estate are currently coming forward on an ad hoc basis.	EH, ENC, Ashton Estate

Part C (to be revised / added)

IMPLEMENTATION and FUNDING MECHANISMS and RESOURCES

In order to assist in securing any required future funding, the projects should be identified, as appropriate, through the Local Development Framework, Local Infrastructure Plan, Corporate Plan etc or forthcoming initiatives, such as the Local Economic Partnership and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Local

The Council currently employ two full-time conservation officers (one covering the historic built environment and one the natural environment). Councillor John Richardson is the Council's Historic Environment Champion.

The Council is involved with the Northamptonshire Conservation Officer Forum.

The Council maintained a heritage related grant scheme with a budget of £41k but it was withdrawn in March 2010.

Endorsement

The local authority and member organisations of East Midlands Heritage Forum will make all reasonable efforts and seek to utilise available opportunities to secure delivery and implementation of the objectives set out in this Statement of Shared Ambition for the Historic Environment, and aim to review progress annually.

This statement was approved as indicated below:

Level	Name (and position where relevant)	Date
Service Manager		
Director		
Cabinet / Committee		
Full Council		
Endorsed by County Council (in two-tier areas)		
East Midlands Heritage Forum		

Member organisations of the East Midlands Heritage Forum:

British Waterways	English Heritage
Country Land and Business Association	Government Office East Midlands
East Midlands Association of Civic Societies	Heritage Lottery Fund
East Midlands Association of Local	Historic Houses Association
Government Archaeological Officers	Historic Towns Forum
East Midlands Churches Forum	Institute of Historic Building Conservation
East Midlands Councils	Museums, Libraries and Archives
East Midlands Development Agency	National Trust
Education representative (Bishop Grosseteste	Natural England
University College, Lincoln)	UK Association of Preservation Trusts

This Shared Statement of Ambition was commissioned by English Heritage and written and produced by RMJM Ltd and The Planning Cooperative Ltd in association with East Northamptonshire Council and members of the East Midlands Heritage Forum, whose assistance and support is gratefully acknowledged.