

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No.6
19 FEBRUARY 2013	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Hiller – Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning	
Contact Officer(s):	Nick Harding - Group Manager, Development Management	Tel. 454441

FORMAL ADOPTION OF PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL'S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD - FOR INFORMATION

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM : Head of Planning Transport and Engineering Services	TIMESCALE: N/A
That the Committee notes the proposed adoption of Peterborough City Council's Historic Environment Record within the terms of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to the Committee following the requirement for the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning to formally adopt the City Council's Historic Environment Record as the register of "sites of archaeological interest" within the terms of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. This decision is proposed to be made exercising delegated authority within a Cabinet Member Decision Notice in accordance with the delegated authority under paragraph 3.3.3 of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the terms of their portfolio at paragraph 3.8(a).

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is for information purposes prior to the formal adoption of the Historic Environment Record.

2.2 This report is for the Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.5.1.6 "to assess and review the performance of the services which fall within the terms of reference of the Committee".

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	N/A
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4. MAIN BODY OF REPORT (*insert an appropriate main heading eg. Background*)

4.1 Peterborough City Council's Historic Environment Record (HER) is a cumulative record of all known archaeological sites and features within the Unitary Area. Established at the beginning of the 1970s it now contains over 4500 entries of all periods. It is a well established resource that underpins the work of the whole Archaeology Service, particularly in regards to providing planning advice. Previously known as Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs), the HER is also used extensively for education, research and general public queries.

- 4.2 The information is contained in a relational database which is digitally geo-referenced in [Hawkeye](#), PCC corporate GIS interactive mapping system. In addition, PCCHER maintains its own 'HER' and 'Image and Document' online versions at <http://her.peterborough.gov.uk/forms/Homepage.aspx> where spatial links to the corresponding records in [Hawkeye](#) are automatically generated for each search. As well as database records, PCCHER maintains physical documents that can be consulted in person (historic maps, annotated maps, photographs and grey literature reports)
- 4.3 Historic Environment Records (HERs) are specifically mentioned within the National Planning Policy Framework. It states that when determining applications, *"As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary"*.
- 4.4 Formal adoption would reaffirm Peterborough City Council's commitment to the Historic Environment Record and ensure Peterborough City Council is prepared to maintain or have access to the data contained within it.
- 4.5 Many of the HERs in England have been adopted by their managing authorities. Access to external funding for the maintenance and improvement of the Record is made much easier as a result.
- 4.6 Formally adopting the HER would bring us in line with National Standards and in particular English Heritage's standards. Peterborough City Council would be unable to meet minimum 'bench mark' standards specified by English Heritage, unless the HER is formally adopted.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 No consultation is required or necessary. However, the adoption of Peterborough City Council's HER will be published on the City Council's website and English Heritage will be informed as part of the ongoing action plan required to meet formal benchmarking for the HER.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 The Cabinet Member formally adopts the City Council's Historic Environment Record as the register of "sites of archaeological interest" within the terms of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Formal adoption would be in accordance with the terms of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995.
- SMRs were first mentioned in the Town & Country Planning General Development Order 1988 which defined 'site of archaeological interest' as (in addition to sites covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979) "land ... which is within a site registered in any record kept by a county council and known as the County Sites and Monuments Record".
 - This has been redefined in The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 as "land ... which is within a site registered in any record *adopted by resolution* by a county council and known as a County Sites and Monuments Record " (italics added).

In order to comply with this definition it is necessary to pass a formal resolution to adopt Peterborough City Council's HER. Historically this requirement had been overlooked and was only identified within a recent audit undertaken.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 Do not adopt the City Council's Historic Environment Record

Do nothing – this option was rejected because it is considered that it would:

Lose credibility as a planning, research and educational resource.

Prevent the City Council from meeting English Heritages minimum 'Bench Mark' standards.

Restrict access opportunities for external funding for the maintenance and improvement of the HER.

9. IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Legal Implications

The proposed adoption is considered to have no legal implications.

9.2 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications. The changes can be delivered within existing budgets.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

10.1 Town & Country Planning General Development Order 1988

10.2 The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

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