

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE - 4 NOVEMBER 2014

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING
AND TRANSPORT

CONSERVATION RESOURCES

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To enable consideration to be given to the level of resources available and necessary to support the delivery of improvement works identified through Conservation Area Assessments

RECOMMENDATION FOR EXECUTIVE: That:

(A)	additional resources in the Conservation service area as outlined in the report submitted, be approved.
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1.0 Background

1.1 Members have considered a number of Conservation Area Appraisal reports over the course of the last year. In each report a number of actions that could be taken to secure improvements to the areas are identified.

1.2 In order to secure these improvements, additional resources are required. Executive Members asked that consideration be given to the form that this could take and a report be brought back to it.

2.0 Report

2.1 Most of the improvements identified in the Appraisal report will require the coordinated action of a number of parties. Examples of the type of improvement identified include tidying of land, replacement fencing, repairs to walls, windows and roofs and the removal or replacement of infrastructure such as signage,

equipment cabinets etc. Often there will be the requirement for a landowner, local parish and town Council, land management organisation, different service areas of East Herts Council and infrastructure provider to be in agreement with regard to the action to be taken. Resources will need to be identified for the action – not necessarily those of the District Council, and a programme of work identified, implemented and delivered.

- 2.2 At present, there is one Conservation and Urban Design post. Currently vacant, but it would be expected that the postholder would be experienced and knowledgeable, would support the bulk of the Councils reactive work dealing with development proposals and would lead on Urban Design advice. The Council also has a Conservation Assistant post, usually occupied by a recently qualified graduate, supporting the work of the Conservation and Urban Design Officer, but with their own developmental caseload.
- 2.3 It is suggested that, to support the additional implementation work now identified and further post is required (probably of a time limited nature). The pitch of the post would be an Officer of some experience, able to establish and deliver a proactive programme of work, understand that potential blockages to that programme and with the necessary experience to explore the avenues available to ensure delivery.
- 2.4 A job description would be required, but it is anticipated that a post at grade 7/8 is required. As indicated, this could be time limited. A 2 year minimum is suggested.
- 2.5 Costs over the 2 years will be met from the “Priority spend” budget which Members will be aware has been established using 25% of the Council’s annual New Homes Bonus funding stream.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper ‘A’**.

Background Papers

None

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