

TITLE OF REPORT: OLD KNEBWORTH CONSERVATION AREA REVIEW

REPORT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, HOUSING & ENTERPRISE
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: COUNCILLOR TOM BRINDLEY

1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 Old Knebworth Conservation Area was designated on 6 October 1969 and first amended on 5 July 1990. Considering the length of time which has elapsed since designation, the fact that there is no adopted character statement, that parts of the existing conservation area boundary may appear to be arbitrary and, in addition, noting the publication of a consultative document by English Heritage entitled 'Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals' (February 2006), there is sufficient justification for undertaking the review of Old Knebworth Conservation Area.
- 1.2 Reports were taken to Southern Rural Committee and Cabinet in 2008/09. Following the completion of a second round of public consultation on 4 March 2011 and following representations received, the review of Old Knebworth Conservation Area was reported to Southern Rural Committee on 24 March 2011. The Report included a revised boundary for Old Knebworth Conservation Area that relates more closely to the built environment and excludes the majority of Knebworth Park.
- 1.3 This Report seeks final approval for the Old Knebworth Conservation Area Character Statement and the boundary changes as identified on the associated map.

2. PUBLIC CONSULTATION INCLUDING CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 2.1 Full details of the first round of public consultation were reported to Southern Rural Area Committee on 20 February 2008 whilst the details of the second round of public consultation were reported to Southern Rural Area Committee on 24 March 2011.

3. SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE – 24 MARCH 2011

- 3.1 The Committee resolved (minute 72):

That the Southern Rural Committee supports the boundary of the Old Knebworth Conservation Area as detailed at Appendix C of the report entitled "Old Knebworth Conservation Area Review".

4. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 states that Local Planning Authorities should review their conservation areas from 'time to time'. Failure to adopt the Old Knebworth Conservation Area Character Statement and revised boundary will mean that the conservation area will remain as amended in 1990 without an adopted Character Statement or up-to-date map.

5. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The human resource implications are contained within the existing establishment. There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This Report contains a recommendation on a key decision that was notified to the public in the Forward Plan on the 1st July 2011.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 That the Character Statement and revised boundary for the Old Knebworth Conservation Area designation, as set out at Appendix C, be adopted.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To ensure that the Council's statutory duties are carried out.

9. APPENDICES

- 9.1 The following appendices relate to this report:

- APPENDIX A – Report to Southern Rural Area Committee on 24 March 2011.
- APPENDIX B – Minute 72 of the Southern Rural Area Committee on 24 March 2011.
- APPENDIX C – Old Knebworth Conservation Area Character Statement with associated map.

- 9.2 The above documentation is appended to this report, however, the appendices accompanying the report to Southern Rural Committee on 24 March 2011 have not been included but this and the above documentation is available on the Council's website. The link is http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/index/environment_and_planning/planning/conservation_heritage/conservation_areas/old_knebworth_conservation_area.htm

10. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 10.1 Mark Simmons (Conservation Officer)
Tel. 01462 474685
E-Mail: mark.simmons@north-herts.gov.uk
- 10.2 Liz Marten (Principal Conservation Officer)
Tel: 01462 474411
E-Mail: liz.marten@north-herts.gov.uk
- 10.3 Mary Caldwell (Development and Conservation Manager)
Tel: 01462 474613
E-Mail: mary.caldwell@north-herts.gov.uk

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 None, other than those referred to in this report.