

 Executive – 4th June 2008		Agenda Item No.
Title	Abbey Fields Conservation Plan	
For further information about this report please contact	Rose Winship	
Service Area	Cultural services	
Wards of the District directly affected	Kenilworth - Abbey	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	N/A	
Background Papers	None	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <u>must</u> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	25 th March 2008	Mary Hawkins
Chief Executive	15 th May 2008	Chris Elliott
CMT	15 th May 2008	
Section 151 Officer	25 th March 2008	Mary Hawkins
Legal	25 th March 2008	Simon Best
Finance	3 rd April 2008	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	25 th April 2008	Chris White
Consultation Undertaken		
Please insert details of any consultation undertaken with regard to this report. Cllr Vincett and members of Kenilworth Abbey Advisory Committee Kenilworth Town Council English Heritage Roger Cullimore – WDC Planning		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report asks the Executive to endorse the principles incorporated in the Kenilworth Abbey Advisory Committee's Conservation Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members are asked to endorse the contents of the KAAC Conservation Plan (Appendix A) for Abbey Fields, Kenilworth as a long term plan for the ways in which Abbey Fields could be developed as an asset to the district.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 KAAC are looking to use the Conservation Plan to access external funding to support the implementation of the plan and as such are seeking endorsement from partner organisations to strengthen any bids for such funding. English Heritage, Kenilworth Town Council and local societies have already endorsed the Conservation Plan.
- 3.2 KAAC are very clear in their supporting letter that they do not see this endorsement by Warwick District Council as a commitment by the District Council to expenditure on any aspect of the Plan.
- 3.3 A letter from KAAC dated 5th March 2008 (Appendix B) outlines the intentions of KAAC in respect of the Conservation Plan and explains how they perceive the Plan being used in the future. In particular the letter states "The policies, and the proposals to implement them, are presented as a series of options, including radical and expensive ones. Some are more inspirational than others; we believe that the best options will be chosen if alternatives are presented, even if they are not attainable at present."
- 3.4 KAAC have been working in partnership with Warwick District Council for some time in particular with officers from Planning and Engineering, and Cultural Services Units.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Should members not wish to endorse the KAAC Conservation Plan, KAAC would continue to seek external funding to move its plans forward, but consider that these applications would be significantly weaker without the endorsement of Warwick District Council as the landowner of Abbey Fields.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 In the letter attached as Appendix B, KAAC clearly state that this endorsement by Warwick District Council is not seen as a commitment from the Council to fund any or all of the projects included in the Plan. However, where projects are considered to be appropriate by both parties, and funding is available, Warwick District Council will work in partnership with KAAC to deliver projects in the most effective and economic way, within the available budget. Section 4.5 of Appendix A suggests the possible sources of funding.

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 Officers consider that the Conservation Plan complements objectives detailed in the Abbey Fields Plan (a 30 year plan approved by Leisure and Amenities Committee in 1994).
- 6.2 The Conservation Plan is also considered appropriate when considered in respect of the draft Corporate Strategy 2007 – 2011 which includes a stated priority 'To ensure culture caters for the whole community' under the objective CS3 'Increase participation and attendance in the Councils cultural offering'; and in respect of the Community Plan (2020) in respect of 'improving the safety of parks and open spaces', 'increasing the number and range of sports and leisure activities for young people' and 'support the local implementation of the Warwickshire Biodiversity Action Plan'.