



REPORT OF: THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & PROSPERITY

TO: PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

ON: 15th December 2016

ORIGINATING SECTION: PLANNING SERVICE

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

COUNCILLORS: ALL

TITLE OF REPORT:

Blackburn With Darwen Borough Council – Local List of Heritage Assets

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Local list of Heritage Assets for the Borough so as to have regard to their heritage significance when determining planning applications.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Local listing is a means for a local community and a local authority to jointly decide what is in their area that they would recognise as a 'local Heritage asset'. The purpose of the list is to enable better protection for those parts of the historic environment that are valued by the local community, but not of national significance. The assets are recognised as undesignated heritage assets which are different from designated heritage assets such as listed buildings.
- 2.2 The selection criteria and scoring for local listing was approved on 14th November 2011 by the Executive Member for Regeneration. Nominations were subsequently invited from the general public in January 2012. Given the large number of nominations received, a small selection of these were considered for local listing to form the first stage with additional stages to follow in subsequent years. A panel convened in July 2014 to consider and score the nominations, and these were approved by Executive Member for Regeneration on 8th October 2015. The list can be viewed on the Council's web site and is appended to this report.

3. RATIONALE

- 3.1. The National Planning Policy Framework advises Local Planning Authorities (LPA) to set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment in their local plan. Emphasis is placed on 'sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets' and recognising that assets are an 'irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance. Heritage assets not designated under statutory regimes but recognised by the LPA as having local heritage significance merit consideration in planning decisions with the LPA taking a balanced judgement having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the Heritage Asset. The Local list will comply with this objective and give greater clarity to potential developers. No greater protection is afforded to the assets but their heritage significance is a material consideration in determining planning applications.
- 3.2 The nominated buildings were assessed by a panel against a number of criteria such as their age and rarity value, association with a notable person or event, eighteenth and nineteenth century industrial assets contributing to manufacturing expansion of the Borough, visual townscape, and architectural value and of archaeological interest.
- 3.3. A total of 32 buildings were considered for scoring by the panel and of these 24 were selected for local listing. Details of the buildings and their scores are appended to this report. The buildings included represent a broad range of types and include places of worship, mills, schools and alms-houses.
- 3.4 The list includes a higher concentration of buildings from Blackburn than Darwen due to the large number of nominations received from the Blackburn area. It is proposed that a later update of the list includes more from the Darwen area and engages directly with the Darwen History Society for possible nominations. The list is considered to represent a good range of the most significant heritage assets that are valued by the local community

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Local Plan Policy 39 on Heritage will form the basis for assessing applications which affect local heritage assets.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1. Owners of locally listed buildings were consulted in October 2014.

10. RECOMMENDATION

10.1 That the Committee note the list of Locally Listed Heritage Assets.

Contact Officer: Jackie Whelan, Principal Planner,
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Date: 25th November 2016

Background Papers: none