

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	14 September 2022
Subject:	Report of the Historic Places Panel Following its Visit to Gloucester in October 2021		
Report Of:	Leader of the Council		
Wards Affected:	All wards		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	David Evans, City Growth & Delivery Manager		
	Email:	david.evans@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel: 39-6847
Appendices:	1. Recommendations and Action Plan		
	2. Recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Members of the report received from Historic England presenting the conclusions and recommendations of the visit from the Historic Places Panel (HPP) in October 2021, and to Members of the action plan, which is drawn from the recommendations of the HPP report.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the summary of the report received from the Historic Places Panel and the action plan that is proposed to address the recommendations made by the Panel be noted.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 During October 2021 Gloucester hosted a visit from the Historic Places Panel. The Historic Places Panel comprises a broad spectrum of independent expertise within the built environment and heritage sectors from across the UK and aims to help local authorities and others in their engagement with the regeneration and revitalisation of historic places.
- 3.2 The visit was a valuable opportunity to inform the Panel of activities underway and planned to create a successful place, and over the course of its two day visit the Panel met around 20 representatives of partner agencies, community organisations, developers, and business owners. The visit was organised by the City Growth & Delivery Team in close liaison with Historic England, and drawing on content and input from colleagues in Visitor Marketing and Culture.

3.3 The HPP has furnished the Council with a report of its visit, summarising its finding and offering conclusions and recommendations to the Council and its partners. The report has yet to be disseminated wider than to the Council at this stage.

3.4 The following conclusion is extracted directly from the HPP report

Gloucester has all of the ingredients of a great place. A wonderful townscape reflecting every phase of English architecture, a young populace, fascinating blue and green infrastructure, a forward-looking university and a growing cultural offer. There is an evident self-confidence and positivity amongst those in key areas in the public and private sectors in the city, based upon the success of nearly two decades of regeneration, which has demonstrated an incredible bravery and far sightedness. This had not however always filtered to the wider community, and work needs to be done to convince Gloucester's communities, including its youth, that they have a city to be proud of with a fascinating heritage and a future that they can shape. This means active participation, and few places can have such a fascinating canvas, or such latent potential as a context for this.

Integration can be facilitated by defining a brand or vision as a touchstone for all decision making, and the secret to this is defining one that is specific and authentic to the place and its people. Working towards this builds in efficiencies and reveals the connectedness at the heart of good place making. Cultural activities, heritage, development, community cohesion, skills, small business growth, health and resilience to climate change (to name several) almost always have outcomes that enhance the success of one or even all of the others.

In this way the innovation of the university's city centre expansion is exactly the sort of strategic move that will deliver lasting benefits to the city and build confidence. The broader capacity of the university and its student population should be harnessed across the board as a full place-making partner, and Lincoln and its university spring to mind as a close parallel. Drawing Gloucestershire County Council into this partnership will also be critical, and the aspirations of those charged with managing the road network aligned with Gloucester's ambitions as a destination. Equally there are substantive issues surrounding capacity and expertise that need to be addressed if the city council is to fulfil its role as a leader.

The Docks and Quays in particular represent an exemplary approach to urban regeneration of a former industrial area, in terms of the repurposing of former warehouses, new build interventions and the quality of the public realm. This approach should be replicated for all regeneration areas and governed by mandated design codes (which make the Cathedral the pre-eminent tall building), material palettes, space standards and other urban design tools

4.0 Social Value Considerations

4.1 None

5.0 Environmental Implications

5.1 The HPP acknowledged the significant improvements made to the environment of the city centre in recent years.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

6.1 None

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

7.1 To provide a steer to officers on the Council's response to the HPP report

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

8.1 The HPP report and recommendations are a valuable critical review of progress made on a number of fronts within the city centre. Services and activities to progress regeneration and growth will be continued by the Council and its partners, taking into account the advice of the HPP.

9.0 Financial Implications

9.1 None

10.0 Legal Implications

10.1 None

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

Risks	Opportunities
None	To follow the advice of the HPP and improve relationships and interventions in the city centre.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

12.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact; therefore, a full PIA was not required.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

13.1 none

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

14.1 None

Background Documents:

The full report of the HPP can be made available to Members.