

# Crawley Borough Council

**Expected Date of Decision: 7 February 2018**

## **Worth Conservation Area Statement**

Report of the Head of Strategic Housing and Planning Services **SHAP/70**

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### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The Council has prepared an update to the Worth Conservation Area Statement. This report seeks Cabinet Member approval to formally adopt the revised Worth Conservation Area Statement (2018).

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

Adopt the updated Worth Conservation Area Statement 2018, enabling it to form a material consideration in planning decisions that affect the character or setting of Worth Conservation Area.

### **3. Reasons for the Recommendations**

- 3.1 Conservation Areas are designated because they are recognised as areas of special architectural or historic interest which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Worth Conservation Area Statement was last updated in August 2003. It is necessary to revise the document to ensure that its guidance remains robust and relevant, particularly within the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and the adopted Crawley Borough Local Plan 2015-2030.

### **4. Background**

- 4.1 The updated Worth Conservation Area Statement provides a detailed appraisal of the important architectural and historic features that contribute to the special character of Worth Conservation Area. It sets out guidance to assist in planning applications and decisions, and establishes a Management Plan to help bring about enhancements to the Conservation Area.
- 4.2 A draft version of Worth Conservation Area Statement was published for an eight-week period of public consultation from 17 July to 11 September 2017. Information on the consultation was sent to addresses adjacent to the Conservation Area, and relevant stakeholders. Briefing sessions were also held with Ward Members.
- 4.3 Feedback on the draft Worth Conservation Area Statement was received from a total of six individuals and organisations. This feedback has been considered and taken into account in preparing the final version of the Conservation Area Statement. Detail of all feedback received during consultation, the council's response to the issues raised, and detail of amendments made to the Conservation Area Statement as a result of feedback, is set out in the Worth Conservation Area Consultation Statement which forms a background document to this report.

### **5. Description of Issue to be resolved**

- 5.1 The special character of Worth Conservation Area has remained largely unchanged since its designation in 1987 and the last update of the Conservation Area Statement in 2003. It is however necessary to update the Conservation Area Statement as a matter of good practice, particularly within the context of changes to national and local planning policy since 2003.
- 5.2 Updates to the Worth Conservation Area Statement are part of a wider programme to prepare updated Conservation Statements for Crawley's designated Conservation Areas, as established through the Local Development Scheme.

## **6. Information & Analysis Supporting Recommendation**

- 6.1 The decision to update the Conservation Area Statement(s) is established through the Local Development Scheme and represents a commitment of the council moving forward.
- 6.2 Should the Cabinet Member decide not to adopt the updated Worth Conservation Area Statement, the previous 2003 version would be retained. The planning policy context set out within the older document is however significantly outdated and is therefore of limited weight. Adoption of the updated Worth Conservation Area Statement will provide a robust tool to help ensure that the special character of Worth can be preserved and/or enhanced.
- 6.3 Ward Members were consulted and briefed upon the draft Worth Conservation Area Statement prior to its publication for public consultation. Ward Members have been supportive of work to update Worth Conservation Area Statement and have provided positive feedback on its content.

## **7. Implications**

- 7.1 If adopted, the 2018 Worth Conservation Area Statement will supersede the 2003 version of the document. Upon adoption, the 2018 Worth Conservation Area Statement will form a material planning consideration in decisions that affect the character or setting of Worth Conservation Area.

## **8. Background Papers**

- Worth Conservation Area Statement (2018):  
<http://www.crawley.gov.uk/pw/web/PUB336203>
- Worth Conservation Area Consultation Statement:  
<http://www.crawley.gov.uk/pw/web/PUB336204>