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Cabinet Member (for Business, Enterprise and Employment)

20 July 2015

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Employment - Cllr Maton

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Executive Director of Place

**Ward(s) affected:**

**Whoberley & Earlsdon**

**Title:**

Council response to a petition to make Earlsdon and Hearsall a conservation area

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

An ePetition sponsored by Councillors Singh and Andrews was submitted on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015, bearing 124 signatures entitled "*We, the petitioners, urge the Council to make parts of Earlsdon and Hearsall a conservation area, in order to provide some protection for this historic and unique place; especially from unsuitable over development*". It is proposed that the Council carryout an assessment of both areas to assess whether they are of sufficient architectural and historic interest for them to be designated as new conservation areas or included within an expanded existing conservation area.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Employment is requested to: -

1. Note the petitioners' request.
2. Give approval for the Council to commence an assessment of the suitability of the areas for designation as a conservation area.

**List of Appendices included:**

Appendix 1. Earlsdon Area of Local Distinctiveness document 2008.

**Other useful background papers:**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

## **1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 The Council has received an ePetition on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015 requesting that the Council designates parts of Earlsdon and Hearsall as a conservation area in order to protect the areas' historic character and to protect them from inappropriate development. The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Section 69 requires that a local planning authority; *'shall from time to time determine which parts of their area are areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance and shall designate those areas as conservation areas'*.
- 1.2 Earlsdon was originally laid out as a 'garden village' in 1852 by the Coventry Freehold Land Society with 251 plots arranged around eight streets. Development progressed slowly and it was many years before all of the plots were filled and many of the area's buildings date from the late Victorian / Edwardian period. The terraced streets which comprise the area we now know as Hearsall are slightly later in date and were developed between 1905 and 1914.
- 1.3 The areas are already known to be green and leafy with a strong Edwardian character with several interesting buildings, some of which have already been 'Locally listed' for their architectural and historic interest.

## **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 By rejecting the petition we would not be giving appropriate consideration to the areas' architectural and historic interest. Potentially this could result in future damage to the areas' character and appearance including the loss of historic buildings and trees which would also be protected by the designation.
- 2.2 This would not be desirable and it is therefore proposed that the Council should commence an assessment of Earlsdon and Hearsall to assess whether all of the areas or some of the areas are of sufficient architectural and historic interest to merit the conservation area designation. Consideration will also be given as to whether it would be more appropriate for certain areas to be included in an expansion of the existing Kenilworth Road Conservation Area which adjoins Earlsdon to the east.

## **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

None.

## **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

The assessment will commence in the autumn of 2015. An in principle decision will be made by the end of 2015, with a full review of the assessment work and more detailed proposals reported back to the Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Employment and the Chair of Planning Committee by summer 2016.

## **5. Comments from Executive Director, Resources**

### **5.1 Financial implications**

All necessary assessment works and report writing will be undertaken by Council officers and therefore will be covered by the existing planning budgets.

5.2 Legal implications

In line with the Council's procedure for dealing and responding to petitions, the Council is required to inform the public on how it plans to deal with the petition.

Should the area be deemed appropriate for designation as a Conservation Area, then this will be undertaken in accordance with the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Sections 69 & 70.

6. **Other implications**

None

6.1 **How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?**

The assessment of Earlsdon and Hearsall for potential designation as a conservation area will contribute to the Council's core aims of making the City an attractive and enjoyable place to be by preventing the potential loss of heritage assets and trees.

6.2 **How is risk being managed?**

There are no risks associated with the assessment of the areas' architectural and historical interest.

6.3 **What is the impact on the organisation?**

There will be no additional impact on staffing as it will be carried out within existing officer workloads.

6.4 **Equalities / EIA**

No impact.

6.5 **Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

The assessment will potentially have a positive impact on the city's environment by preserving trees and buildings.

6.6 **Implications for partner organisations?**

No impact.

**Report author(s):**

**Name and job title:**

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**Directorate:**

Place

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Tracy Miller	Head of Planning	Place Directorate	30/06/15	01/07/15
Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Team Leader	Resources Directorate	30/06/15	30/06/15
Finance: Phil Helm	Finance Manager (Place)	Resources Directorate	30/06/15	01/07/15
Legal: Julie Sprayson	Principal Legal Executive Place & Regulatory Team	Resources Directorate	30/06/15	02/07/15
HR: Jasbir Bilen	HR Manager	Resources Directorate	30/06/15	01/07/15
Assistant Director: Colin Knight	Assistant Director (Planning Transport and Highways)	Place Directorate	30/06/15	02/07/15
Members: Councillor Kevin Maton	Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Employment			
Director: Name Martin Yardley				
Members: Name Cllr Maton				

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**Appendices**

None.