

# A Conservation and Heritage Strategy for Stockport

## Action Plan 2008 - 2011

\* Page no– refers to page number in strategy document

\*\* Timescale

S short within 1 year  
 M medium within 2 – 4 years  
 L long 5 years & over  
 OG ongoing

\*\*\* Indicative Resources

Year 1 - 2008  
 Year 2 - 2009  
 Year 3 - 2010  
 Year 4 - 2011

Page no. *	Theme	Action Area	Key Tasks	Timescale **	Lead (partners)	Indicative Resources ***	Key Milestones
<b>22</b>	<b>Understanding</b>						
24	<b>Education</b>	Build upon good practice & excellence in educational provision at heritage sites and in the community.	Deliver existing programmes and develop new programmes in line with resources	OG	L & C	Existing Resources for current provision.	Currently at full capacity. Expanded capacity provided and at full capacity

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		Increase the number of historic assets accessible and open to the public and expand the Heritage Open Days initiative to a wider audience	Provide enhanced accessibility to an increased number of heritage assets permanently open to the public or available on Heritage Open Days. Diversify & expand audience participation.	OG	C&H/ TD/ L&C / Community Groups/ Friends Organisations / Private owners	Activity funded by existing resources	Increase sites/events participating by 2 sites/events per year. Participation increased and diversified.
		Increase programme of outreach activities to promote the service and access to the Council's heritage resource	Expand events and outreach programmes	OG	C&H / L&C	Existing Resources.	Comprehensive programme of events devised and delivered annually
		Increase access to the collections, reference material and information for researchers, of both professional and amateur interest, including museum objects, local heritage library research material, photographic collections, maps, ephemera and archives	Increase access to heritage collections through improved documentation. Make Local Heritage photographic collections available on-line via the council's website. Improve archive storage	OG  M  M/L	C&H  Libraries / Local Heritage Library / Archives / SeS	Existing Resources  Existing Resources & Volunteers. Improved Archives storage costs to be investigated	Collections Management Plan targets met annually. Local Heritage Photographic Collections available on-line. Improved Archives storage facility secured.

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27	<b>Information</b>	Make Stockport Historic Environment Database (SHED) available externally	Make SHED available externally	S	C&H / SCG SeS	Existing Resources	SHED available externally 2008
		Ensure all heritage sites provide appropriate and innovative interpretation techniques to provide information and enliven the visitor experience in accordance with the Inspiring Learning for All framework	Apply Inspiring Learning For All Framework to all heritage interpretation within the Council's sphere of influence	OG	C&H / L&C	Existing Resources	Inspiring Learning For All Framework applied to all heritage interpretation within the Council's sphere of influence
		Develop and explore new audiences and innovative ways to encourage/increase audience involvement and participation in heritage activity when developing new or existing projects	In the development of all new heritage activity and projects encourage increased participation through audience development initiatives	OG	C&H / L&C	Existing Resources	A more diverse audience profile achieved for visits to heritage sites and participation in events and activities

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28	<b>Learning, Skills, Training</b>	Develop links with Stockport College and support the establishment of a regional training centre	Establish programme of training days with Stockport College / UCLAN / Manchester University relating to live projects and linked to course content  Work with HEF and the IHBC to develop a regional training centre	S/M  M/L	C&H / Stockport College / University of Central Lancashire/ Manchester University  HEF / IHBC / C&H	Existing resources  Existing resources	Programme of training days established  Regional training centre established
		Develop links with the employment sector and regional initiatives to encourage and improve skills development	Support HEF with their initiative to develop skills within the sector.	M/L	HEF / C&H / IHBC /	Existing resources	Links with HEF and employment sector made and action agreed 2009
		Support local and regional professional learning and skills development by offering training placements and work experience in key service areas within the Council and develop an internal training programme for related professionals as part of CPD	Offer fixed term placements / work experience to students on specifically identified courses  Establish a programme of training sessions for DC officers / Planners / Highway Engineers	S & OG  S & OG	C&H  C&H	Existing resources  Existing resources	2 placements offered in Conservation and Heritage per year  2 training sessions delivered each year

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		Encourage further capacity building in the voluntary sector and in the community through heritage activities and projects	Develop projects which encourage skills development within communities to ensure sustainability	S & OG	C&H / L&C	Existing resources and project funding	Projects/outcomes sustained beyond the life of finite projects
		Assist in the production of a local/regional database of heritage/conservation specialists for small to large projects	Work with EH / IHBC / COG groups / Church Architects to Establish regional database of heritage / conservation specialists for use by all districts	S/M	C&H / COG Groups / IHBC NW	Existing resources	Database established and vetting arrangements in place 2009
		Provide a variety of themes at different sites to provide very different opportunities for learning, with something to appeal to all ages, interests and learning abilities	Maximise learning opportunities across all sites with something to appeal to all ages, interests, abilities, and learning styles	OG	C&H / L&C	Existing Resources	A variety of learning opportunities available at all sites
		Consider new and innovative ways of investing and renewing skills and training through succession planning	Invest in museum training	OG	C&H / L&C	Existing Resources	Museum expertise developed

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		Develop existing and new audiences and learning initiatives across the borough	Through Formal & Informal Learning programmes and through innovative site interpretation provide audience development opportunities	OG	C&H / L&C	Existing Resources	Existing audience expectations met and exceeded and new audience participation encouraged
		Develop existing and new community based 'hands on' learning projects	Establish new Hands on Heritage projects and mainstream existing programmes including Community Archaeology digs	OG	C&H / L&C GMAU UMAU	Additional activities subject to potential future resource allocation and the Council's budget setting process	Community Archaeology Dig delivered at Bramall Hall & Park
30	<b>Accessibility</b>	Increase access to collections and sites to the public and researchers and seek to expand an innovative exhibition programme	Maintain momentum of increased access to collections through sustained activity to document, research and exhibit collections	OG	C&H / L&C	Existing Resources	Proportion of collections accessible in exhibitions, handling collections and available for research increased
32	<b>Positive Action</b>						

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32	<b>Public Realm Improvements</b>	Develop partnerships and establish protocols to ensure the highest quality design and implementation of public realm improvements and repairs	Work with Highways / Transportation to establish protocols and code of practice when dealing with highway improvements / public realm enhancements / reinstatements	S/M	C&H / Highways / Transportation	Existing resources	Clear lines of communication and code of practice and protocols in place 2008
33	<b>Buildings at risk</b>	Develop an action plan to ensure buildings at risk are identified and appropriate and timely action is taken to repair, restore and bring them back into sustainable reuse	Following survey of Statutory and Locally Listed Buildings, identify buildings at risk and develop action plan to secure repair / reuse	S/M	C&H / Private Owners / BPT's	To be determined  Rechargeable	Action plan developed and action taken on priority buildings

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33	<b>Conservation Areas</b>	Ensure all conservation areas are protected and have up to date appraisals and management plans	Examine potential for further conservation areas	M	C&H	Existing resources	Further review in 2010
			100% of conservation areas have recent appraisals	S	C&H	Existing resources	100% appraisals by 2008
			100% of conservation areas with management plans	M	C&H	Existing resources	100% management plans by 2010
			Implement action of management plans	M / OG	C&H / Corporate	Implementation dependent on resource availability	Key actions considered
			Article 4 directions in place and monitored	M / OG	C&H / Enforcement	Existing and resources for legal costs	All conservation areas with Article 4 directions as appropriate
34	<b>List Review</b>	Enhance local list of buildings of architectural or historic interest	Updated local list reviewed and agreed	S / OG	C&H	Existing resources	Local list formally approved and added to SHED 2008



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34	<b>Archaeology</b>	Develop Historic Environment Record as a rich archaeological resource	Continue to develop and make web accessible externally and for educational use	M	GMAU	Possible future national funding	
		Promote the use of site interpretation / commemoration of archaeological results	Information from sites displayed on boards and available through suitable media ie web, publications, exhibitions, displays	OG	GMAU / C&H	Developer funded contribution	Number of sites interpreted / commemorated
		Encourage community dig projects as a way to encourage local communities to take ownership of their local heritage	Seek opportunities for community dig projects through Dig Greater Manchester Project	M/L	GMAU	AGMA / HLF	Community dig project expanded across Greater Manchester
35	<b>Historic Park and Gardens</b>	Ensure that the significance of historic parks and gardens / landscapes / graveyards resource is recognised and understood	Identify and appraise assets of local historic importance	M	C&H Parks and Leisure	Existing resources	Local list produced 2010
35	<b>Historic Landscape Characterisation</b>	Support compilation of Countywide Historic Landscape Characterisation survey data	Completion of Stockport borough and input into strategic planning and educational resource	M	GMAU / C&H	EH / AGMA	Final document produced in 2010

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36	<b>Regeneration</b>	Maximise opportunities to develop heritage led regeneration projects, and ensure that the benefits are sustained	<p>Implement final year of Hillgate THI</p> <p>Ensure investment is safeguarded</p> <p>Use CPO powers to secure heritage led regeneration</p> <p>Transfer CPO'd sites to select developers</p>	<p>S</p> <p>M/L/OG</p> <p>M/L</p> <p>M/OG</p>	<p>C&amp;H / Private Owners</p> <p>C&amp;H / DC Owners</p> <p>C&amp;H / Legal</p> <p>C&amp;H / Legal / Developers</p>	<p>Funds allocated</p> <p>Existing resources</p> <p>Financial implications met by development partners</p>	<p>Implementation plan complete and grant aided projects complete 2008</p> <p>Enforcement action taken. Management plan actioned CPO Strategy approved 2008</p> <p>2 sites transferred / regeneration secured per year</p>
37	<b>Pro-active enforcement</b>	To establish priorities and take positive action to tackle key problem buildings and sites	Carry out survey of problem buildings / sites. Work with Enforcement Team to produce priority list and prioritise action	S / OG	C&H / Planning Enforcement	Existing resources	Survey carried out, priority list established and priority action taken
		Work with Development Control to establish priorities and ensure appropriate and timely conservation enforcement action is pursued	Carry out survey of problem buildings / sites. Work with Enforcement Team to produce priority list and prioritise action	S / OG	C&H / Planning Enforcement	Ditto	Survey carried out, priority list established and priority action taken

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		Develop advice / guidance for property owners to help prevent uninformed alterations	Produce and publish a suite of advice notes for property owners on repair / replacement of key building components susceptible to change	S/M	C&H / GMCOG	Existing resources	10 Advice notes published on website 2008
38	<b>Planning and Development Control</b>	Ensure that conservation and heritage is given full consideration when developing Planning Policy and the emerging Local Development Framework	Liaise with Policy to embed Conservation and Heritage issues into the LDF and Core Strategy to continue to establish a firm policy base for conservation	S/M	C&H / Planning Policy	Existing resources	Conservation and Heritage Strategy and Actions embedded into LDF and Core Strategy 2008
		Establish a clear protocol for consultation and monitoring and establish a programme of capacity building and training	Agree and draw up with DC a formal consultation and monitoring process for applications, appeals, enforcement etc  Set up a programme of internal training sessions tied into planning team meetings	S  S	C&H / Planning  C&H / Planning	Existing resources  Existing resources	Consultation and monitoring protocol and database set up 2008  4 training sessions per team carried out

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		Continue to promote best practice throughout the planning process, through Stockport Conservation and Design Awards and ensure that high quality design is achieved through design briefs and a design framework	Hold a local bi-annual Conservation and Design Awards scheme  Ensure all design briefs / masterplans have Urban Design and Conservation input	M / OG  S / OG	C&H / Planning Design Team  C & H / Planning Design Team	Sponsorship and existing resources	Bi-annual awards scheme in place  100% briefs / masterplans with design / conservation input
40	<b>The Dynamic Collection</b>	Establish a programme of collection development and renewal	Develop collections to more accurately reflect the diversity and interests of today's population	OG	C&H / L&C/ Libraries / Local Heritage Library / Archives /	Existing Resources and special project funding	Collections developed to reflect diversity and interests of today's users
40	<b>Developing sites</b>	Further develop opportunities to enhance the learning programmes and establish a programme of refreshing and renewing buildings, displays and attractions	Maintain and refresh buildings, displays, exhibitions, interpretation and learning programmes across all sites	OG	C&H / L&C/ Libraries / Local Heritage Library / Archives /	Existing Resources	Buildings, displays, exhibitions, interpretation and learning programmes refreshed periodically across all sites

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40	<b>Maximising opportunities</b>	Work creatively with external and internal partners to maximise funding opportunities for key projects and establish priorities for funding activity in order to maximise potential	Identify and seek external resources to support Council and community led heritage projects  Develop funding priorities for key projects	OG  S/M/L	C&H / Resource Procurem't Vol /Com Groups  C&H / Executive	Existing and new resources to be determined  Existing resources to be determined	Projects identified and bids made  Corporate funding strategy agreed 2008
41	<b>Conservation and Heritage Fund</b>	Establish a conservation fund to ensure pro-active conservation enhancement work across the borough	Identify budget to fund pro-active conservation work  Identify and support key projects	S / OG	C&H / Private /local amenity groups	Additional activities subject to potential future resource allocation and the Council's budget setting process	Budget established for 2008 to 2011  First projects complete 2009
42	<b>Tourism / Image &amp; Identity</b>	Work with our partners to utilise and promote the borough's key heritage assets to promote and increase tourism activity and improve the image of the borough through a number of existing, new and innovative initiatives	Use conservation and heritage assets to support Tourism activities	OG	C&H / Corporate / Tourism / Town Centre Team	Existing resources	Actions of Tourism Strategy supported and developed

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		Support the actions of the Visitor Strategy to ensure Stockport is a destination of choice.	Use conservation and heritage assets to support Tourism activities	OG	C&H / Corporate / Tourism	Existing Resources	Actions of Tourism Strategy supported and developed
44	<b>Developing Partnerships</b>						
45	<b>Local strategic partnerships</b>	To ensure that heritage and conservation are represented and given due consideration within the framework of the Local Strategic Partnership and its themed partnerships through Local Area Agreements.	Historic Environment Champion co-opted onto partnership board to ensure conservation and heritage is represented	OG	HE Champion	Existing resources	Historic Environment Champion represented on board
46	<b>Community engagement</b>	Maintain, recognise, develop and support community and voluntary organisations and activity across the Borough	Develop new and existing partnerships and working contacts and establish appropriate forum for key groups and individuals	S / OG	C&H / Local amenity groups / volunteer groups	Existing resources / Venues need funding	Investigate and establish appropriate forum and support 4 events each year
		Improve opportunities to engage with collections local exhibitions and libraries	Make collections more accessible and diversified	OG	C&H / L&C/ Libraries / Local Heritage Library / Archives /	Existing Resources	More collections in use and reflecting the diversity of users and interest groups

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47	<b>Local and National Heritage Bodies</b>	Maintain and develop good working contact with local and national heritage bodies and relevant building preservation trusts (BTP's)	Ensure excellent relationship by involve / consult heritage organisations in key decisions and in developing strategies/ proposals affecting Stockport's historic environment and respecting their views	OG	C&H / EH/ HLF/ CABE/ AHF/ IHBC / BPT's	Existing resources	Maintain regular contact / consultation and continue to raise profile with key organisations
47	<b>Corporate 'joined-up' working</b>	Ensure that the value and benefits of conservation and heritage are understood as corporate assets and responsibility and establish clear and appropriate roles and responsibilities	Promote and ensure value / importance of heritage assets is understood by Council services responsible for management/ maintenance/ development of assets	OG	C&H / Corporate action	Existing resources	Encourage preparation of conservation plans for key assets arrange possible seminar best practice notes on corporate assets and the historic environment

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		Ensure that appropriate communication networks and consultation protocols are established and maintained in order that conservation and heritage is dealt with in a cross cutting, collaborative and 'joined-up' way	<p>Establish communication and management protocols for Council owned assets.</p> <p>Historic Environment Champion to ensure leadership, best practice and cross-cutting responsibility for heritage assets</p>	<p>S / M</p> <p>OG</p>	<p>C&amp;H / Corporate action</p> <p>Historic Environment Champion</p>	<p>Existing resources</p> <p>Existing resources</p>	<p>Clear protocols and a conservation presence established to feed into corporate asset working groups</p>
49	<b>International liaison</b>	Develop international partnership working with existing and potential links and funding initiatives	Develop links with existing and new projects and contacts and promote best practice in Stockport to an international audience	OG	C&H / International Liaison	Existing Resources	Stockport's Heritage credentials (achievements & best practice) recognised internationally
49	<b>Funding partners</b>	Ensure that projects requiring external funding are established and prioritised, and that we understand through our links with internal and external partners the availability, needs and priorities of each funding organisation	Establish funding priorities and ensure these accord with the requirements of each funding partner. Seek funding for key projects.	OG	C&H / Resource Consultancy	Seek funding for key projects.	<p>List of projects drawn up and prioritised.</p> <p>Bids to external funders made</p>



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50	<b>Promoting Best Practice</b>						
51	<b>Advice</b>	Ensure that all guidance and advice is relevant, up to date, accurate, consistent, in accordance with best practice and made accessible to a wide audience through a variety of means, but in particular the Council website	Develop web pages and publications to provide information and best practice guidance for the borough historic assets  Leaflets produced for all conservation areas	OG  M	C&H  C&H	Existing resources  Costs to be determined	Web pages enhanced, updated, with links to key sites such as EH, CABE  6 Leaflets per year complete. All leaflets complete by 2011
51	<b>Celebrating and promoting achievement</b>	Continue to develop the Stockport awards scheme and promote our achievements	Positive news and achievements celebrated through awards and press articles	OG	C&H	Existing resources	10 articles, news stories generated per year
		Continue to host conferences and events that share knowledge and best practice and celebrate and promote Stockport's heritage	Hold GMCOG / THI and seek other heritage based conservation events in the borough	OG	C&H	Existing resources	THI forum event held in 2008 and GMCOG held every 2 years.
		Continue to strive for exemplar projects and excellence in achievement and provision of services	Continue to generate and lead and seek opportunities for exemplar projects and excellence in service	OG	C&H / Corporate	Existing resources	Project recognised by receiving awards

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53	<b>Asset management and maintenance</b>	Ensure that the Council and non-Council owned and managed heritage assets have appropriate conservation and management plans in place and a recognition of the resources needed to implement these	Preparation of conservation plans for future management of heritage assets	S / M	Corporate / Private / Community Group	Existing resources and specialist reports	Number of management plans prepared

### Abbreviations contained in Action Plan:

Stockport Council Services

C&H Conservation and Heritage Team  
L&C  
TD  
SeS Stockport e Services  
DC Development Control

National and regional organisations

IHBC Institute of Historic Building Conservation  
HEF Historic Environment Forum  
GMAU Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit  
UMAU University of Manchester Archaeology Unit  
COG Conservation Officer Group

BPT	Building Preservation Trust
GMCOG	Greater Manchester Conservation Officer Group
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
EH	English Heritage
CABE	Commission For Architecture and the Built Environment
AHF	Architectural Heritage Fund

#### Other abbreviations

CPO	Compulsory Purchase Order
LDF	Local Development Framework
THI	Townscape Heritage Initiative

Local Amenity Groups and Organisations include: Stockport Heritage Trust; Stockport Civic Society; Stockport Historical Association; Cheadle Civic Society; Hill Street/Lime Grove Residents Association (Cheadle); Brooklyn Crescent Residents Association (Cheadle); Swann Lane Residents Association (Cheadle Hulme); Marple and Mellor Local History Society; Mellor Society; Mellor Archaeological Trust; Reddish Buildings Preservation Trust; Plaza Trust; Friends of Bramall Hall and Park; The Macclesfield Canal Society; Johnnie Johnson Housing Trust.