

West Lancashire Heritage and Conservation Strategy.

Work undertaken under Aim 1 – ‘To preserve and enhance the Districts heritage’

Aim/Action ref No.	Work or project undertaken	Comments	Objectives	Value (H/M/L)
PE.1	Maintain and update Building at Risk (BAR) register. Undertook re-survey (via external heritage surveyors) of the Districts listed buildings (613 in total) in order to record their condition and to flag up any buildings being neglected or at risk. Information/records held on a database helps focus work on the buildings most at risk.	West Lancashire has had a BAR register since 1989. The re-survey was undertaken in 2005. Under the Planning Acts the Council has a ‘duty’ to preserve the character of all listed buildings. English Heritage advises that all LA’s should maintain a BAR register.	A, B	High
PE.2	Building at Risk Grant programme. Grant support for buildings and properties identified on the Council’s BAR register. In last 3 years 17 grants have been approved benefiting 14 properties.	Funding obtained through Capital programme for 2005-08.	B, D	High
PE.3	Conservation area character appraisals. The programme of reviews of the Districts 28 conservation areas was completed in 2008. Work to maintain up to date reviews is continuing to ensure changes in our historic places are recognised and managed.	Duty under the Planning Act 1990 to review its conservation areas from time to time. English Heritage recommends that appraisals should be undertaken every 5 years.	A, B, C, D	High

PE.4	Conservation areas grant scheme supports works to repair or renew traditional features on properties i.e. sash windows. In the last 3 years we have supported 17 schemes to enhance the character and appearance of the Districts conservation areas.	Funding obtained through the Capital programme for 2005-08.	B, C, D	High
PE.5	Conservation Area Enhancement Work. These schemes are identified through public consultation in the conservation area review programme and highlight areas/schemes, which enhance the areas character/appearance e.g. replacing street furniture or providing 'traditional' styled street lights. Work also takes place in Ormskirk Town Centre. 15 schemes have been provided support totalling over £31K of investment.	Funding obtained through the Capital programme for 2005-08. Lighting schemes carried out in partnership with LCC. Partnership schemes with Parish Councils i.e. Newburgh Village Green.	B, D	High
PE.6	Conservation Area Tree and Hedge Planting Scheme. Enhancement Work identified through the appraisal work, in a number of conservation areas, to help with the re-planting of lost hedges and trees. In total 10 grants have been given out.	Funding obtained through the Capital programme for 2005-08.	B, D	Med
PE.7	Providing additional planning controls in conservation areas through the use of Article 4(2) Directions where appropriate to do so.	Identified through the conservation area appraisal work and only applied after consultation with local residents and landowners.	B, C	Med

PE.8	Proactively working with the Planning Officers to ensure adequate protection is given to any heritage asset through the development process.	Over 300 consultation responses are provided a year on 'heritage' issues. Need to ensure that specialist conservation skills are kept within the Council.	B, C	High
PE.9	The running and organisation of the Conservation Areas Advisory Panel (CAAP) which provides independent comments on planning proposals which affect listed buildings and properties in conservation areas. The panel is made up of members drawn from local amenity groups and representatives from professional bodies with knowledge of the development process. Comments are fed back into the Development Control Planning function and are intended to help the Council on applications relating to heritage matters.	The Councils conservation panel is a long established group which 'add value' to the planning process by scrutinising planning proposals. West Lancashire is one of only a few authorities in the North West, which maintain a panel.	B, D	Med
PE.10	Production and updating of the Councils 'List of Locally Important Buildings'. The list recognises buildings, which are of local heritage value, which are not statutory protected through being a 'listed' building.	The Council's current 'Local List' was produced in 2005 and reviewed in 2008. Many of the buildings identified on the list have been submitted by Parish Councils and local groups.	A, B	Low