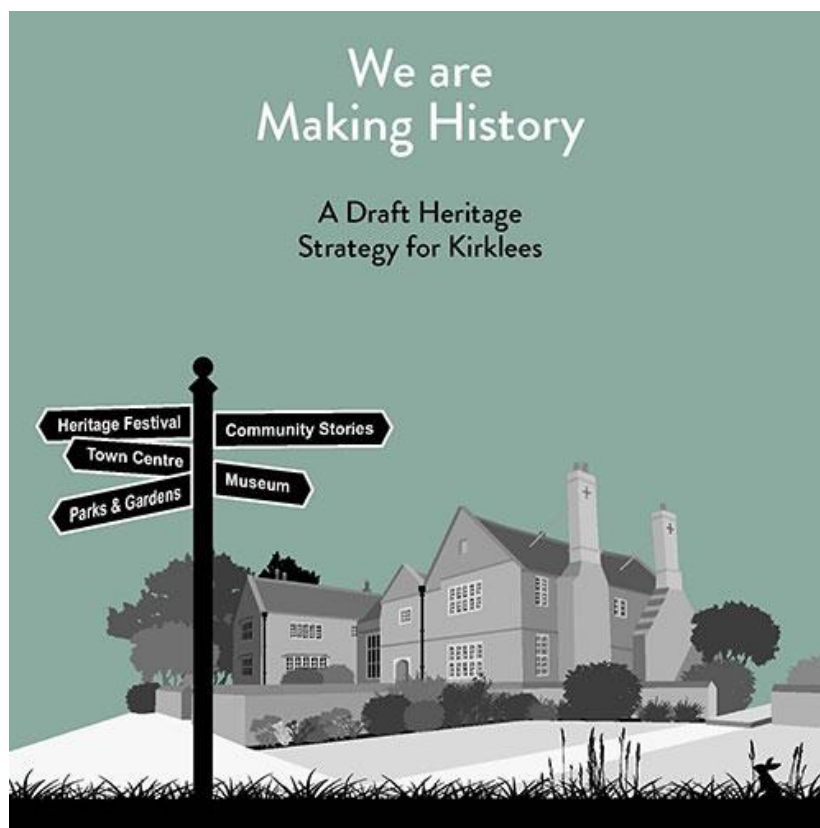


*We are Making History*  
**A Draft Heritage Strategy for Kirklees Council**

# Summary of Consultation Feedback

November 2022 - January 2023



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# **1: Introduction**

Kirklees Council is developing a new Heritage Strategy that will encourage inclusive opportunities for everyone to understand, enjoy, and share heritage.

The Heritage Strategy, which is currently at the draft stage, has been created with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund through their Resilient Heritage funding programme. It will sit alongside new Tourism and Cultural Strategies currently being developed and will tell the stories of Kirklees in new and exciting ways, encouraging collaboration, promotion, and participation in heritage and culture, and attracting interest and visitors to the district. The Heritage Strategy also aims to shape an aspirational future for Kirklees, built on strong foundations of local identity and to find new ways to invest in, enhance, and sustain our heritage.

## **2: Summary**

### ***2:1 Steps to Date***

- A public consultation on the draft Heritage Strategy and the linked Strategic Heritage Action Plan was undertaken from November 2022 – January 2023
- 135 responses to the online survey were received and 3 paper responses to the survey
- Kirklees residents, cultural organisations and partners, funders and other stakeholders such as Historic England and West Yorkshire Archives Service, as well as key internal Council services such as Conservation Planning and Libraries also provided responses
- These comments have been reviewed by the Kirklees Museums and Galleries team with the Council's Research and Intelligence Team, and the strategy amended as appropriate
- The revised Heritage Strategy and Action Plan will be submitted to the Council's Cabinet for approval in the autumn of 2023
- This report on the findings will be added to Kirklees Council's Involve database

### ***2:2 Summary Findings***

Support for the Heritage Strategy is strong, with positive feedback from key partners and valuable comments from residents that they welcome the ambition of the outcomes and commitments the strategy offers.

Responses to the consultation were less positive in relation to how the ambitions would be achieved, how the Cultural Delivery Plans would be resourced, and whether the process would be transparent and be representative of the diversity of heritage and communities in Kirklees.

There was a great deal of constructive comment which has informed the way key elements of the revised Heritage Strategy and Strategic Heritage Action Plan will be presented for better understanding.

There is not a fundamental change of message or narrative in the revised version but an emphasis on certain aspects which did not seem to be noticed or understood by everyone.

There were also suggestions for removing duplication, clearer language and making linkages with existing heritage programmes and organisations, and for omissions, which will be considered as part of the implementation of the action plan and the development of the Cultural Delivery Plans.

*“We welcome the proposed Heritage Partnership group and would like to be involved. A wider partnership than we have built so far could provide a more sustainable umbrella for HODs in future years” – **Heritage Open Days Committee***

*“We welcome your proposal to develop place-based CDPs, with “local engagement and co-production ..... to ensure that they are rooted in community need” - **Denby Dale Parish Council***

*“It is immensely positive that this strategy is being produced, illustrating the Council’s commitment to the appreciation and celebration of the district’s varied heritage, both tangible and intangible.*

*We recommend further consideration of how to reflect the diverse cultural heritage of the district. This could be explored in tandem with plans to engage with new or marginalised communities to foster an increased sense of place and belonging. It would also be interesting to see how this might relate to initiatives such as Creative People and Places, which has a specific remit to increase arts participation from communities with low engagement levels. Finally, it is essential that there is sufficient partner and community buy-in to the framework.” - **Historic England***

*“Great that Kirklees now recognises the central role heritage plays in economic growth, jobs, visitors, reputation etc. A change from viewing its heritage buildings etc as liabilities, and instead viewing them as potential assets is long overdue and very welcome. Many KMC libraries have important local history or local studies sections, or history groups. Libraries could be used more to showcase Kirklees heritage, putting on events, performances, displays etc and pulling more local residents in.” - **Spen Valley Civic Society***

*“We welcome Kirklees Council’s commitment to that heritage in its ‘We Are Making History’ Draft Heritage Strategy It is also re-assuring to see, on p.07 and 09, Kirklees’ commitment to ensuring that it meets national statutory requirements. Stresses the crucial importance to work in local history and, therefore to the Heritage Sector as a whole, of the provision of continuing and enhanced access to source material in the shape of libraries, museums and archives” - **Huddersfield Local History Society***

### **3: Methodology**

The draft Heritage Strategy was published for consultation with local residents, communities and key stakeholders between November 2022 and January 2023. It was launched at the [Culture is Ordinary](#) conference in November 2022 and communicated via the Council’s Communications team.

The Strategy was available online via the Kirklees Council, Kirklees Together and Huddersfield Unlimited websites, alongside an online survey to gather feedback. Paper copies of the survey were also available, and the survey engagement was promoted on social media. Examples of the social media publicity and the survey questions are included in [Section 7:4 of the Appendix](#) to this report.

The survey, using a mix of structured (quantitative) and open-ended (qualitative) questions, focused on the following areas:

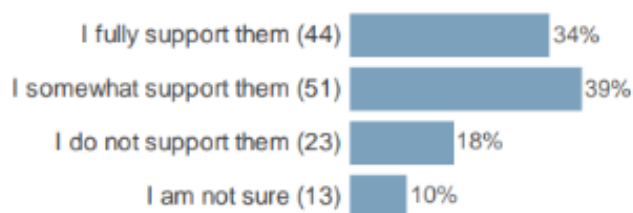
- Whether people felt the strategy will have a positive impact on heritage in Kirklees
- Whether it will make a difference to those living and visiting Kirklees
- Whether the strategic action plan is likely to increase people's engagement with heritage and help them to learn about the local area

In total, 135 online and 3 paper responses to the survey were received. Thematic analysis of qualitative responses was carried out in order to identify key themes, and descriptive statistics were produced for quantitative responses. A summary of key findings is below, and these informed the drafting of a final version of the Heritage Strategy to be submitted to Cabinet.

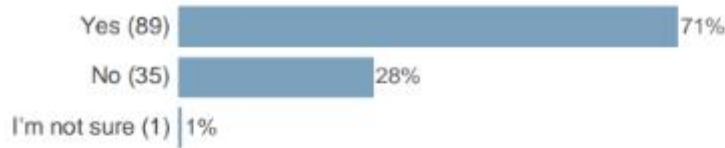
## 4: Summary of Survey Findings

### 4:1 Quantitative Responses

**Overall, how do you feel about the proposals in the Heritage Strategy?**



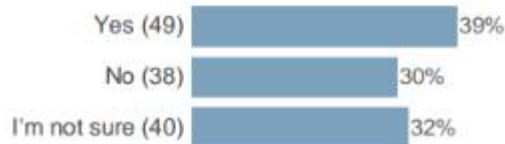
**Have you read the full Strategic Heritage Action Plan?**



**Do you think the Strategic Heritage Action Plan includes the actions needed to improve heritage in Kirklees?**

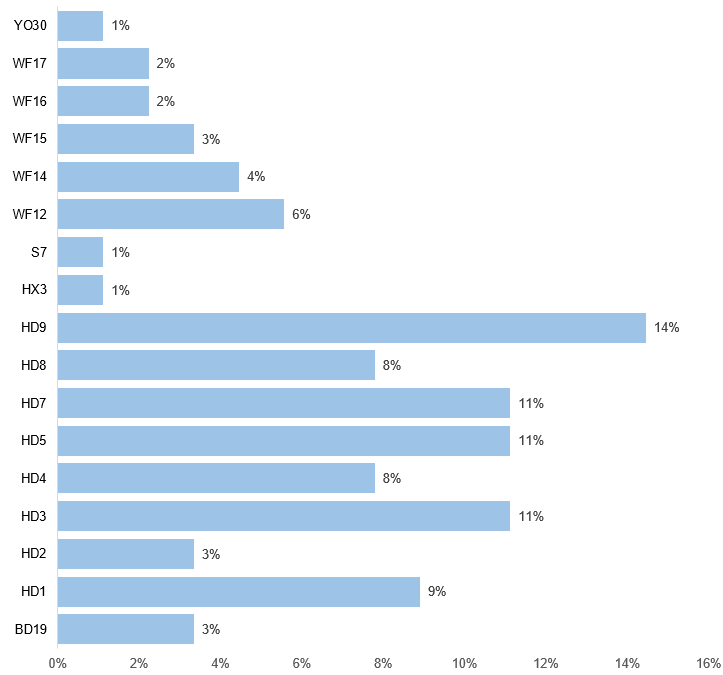


**Do you think the Strategic Heritage Action Plan includes actions which will increase people's engagement with heritage and help them to learn about the district?**

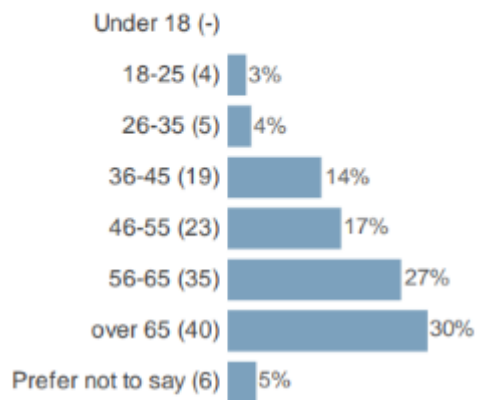


**Please tell us the first part of your postcode leaving no spaces, e.g. WF12 (this will be 3 or 4 characters)**

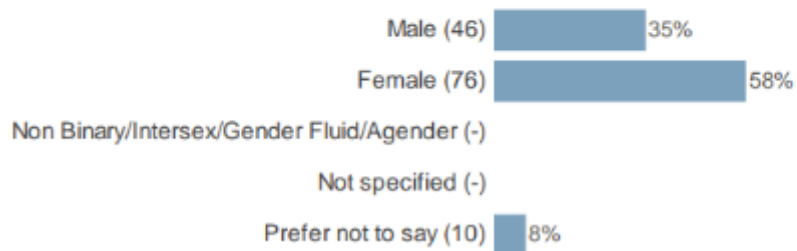
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HD7	WF14	HD9	HD5	HD5	HD3	HD1	HD1	HD4	BD19	HD1
HD8	HD4	HD5	Wf16	HD1	HD4	HD4	HD4	HD7	HD9	HD1
WF12	HD3	HD3	Hx3	HD2	HD9	HD5	HD5	HD9	HD7	Hd7
HD2	S7	YO30	HD8	Hd1	HD9	Hd8	HD1	HD7	WF14	Hd8
WF16	Hd3	HD9	WF15	HD4	Hd7	Hd5	HD3	HD9	HD8	HD9
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HD5	HD4	HD9								



**How old are you...**



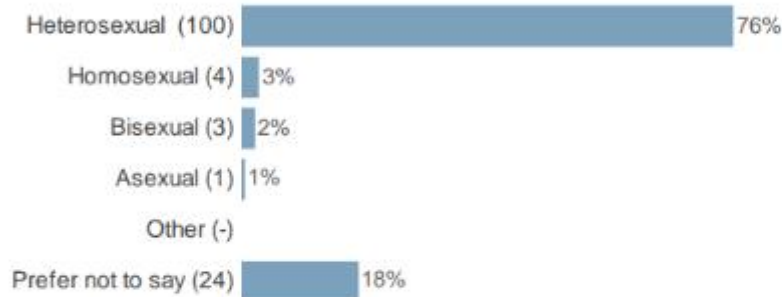
**Are you...**



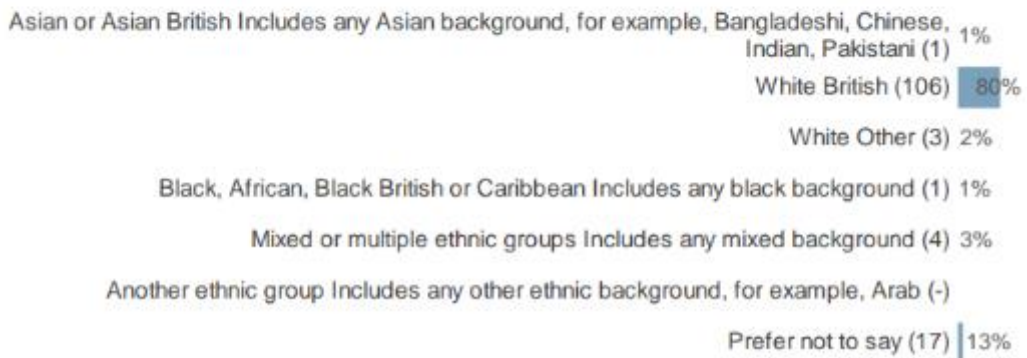
**Is your gender the same as the sex you were registered at birth?**



**What is your sexuality?**

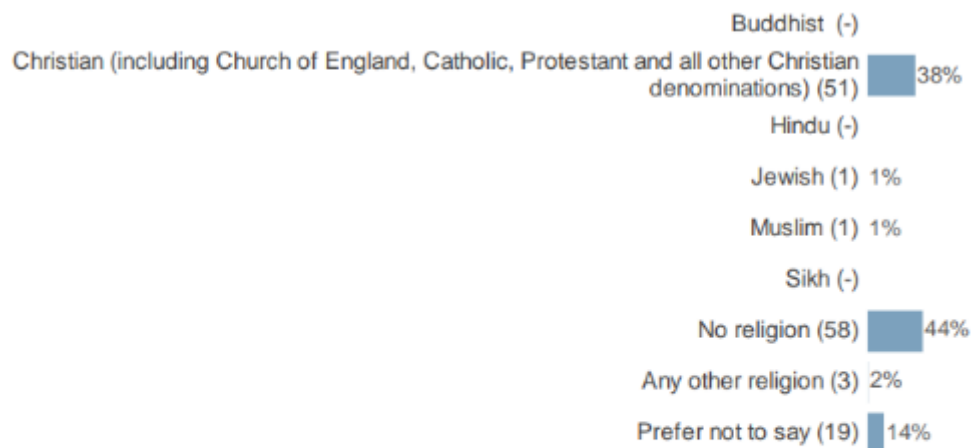


**What is your ethnic group?**

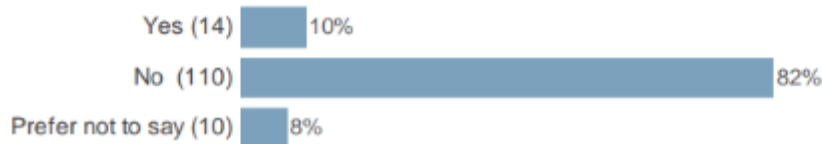




### What is your religion?



### Would you describe yourself as disabled?



## 4:2 Qualitative Responses

### 4:2:1 Ideas/feedback which would help make the Heritage Strategy successful

#### Investment

Respondents felt that investment is key to ensuring the strategy is successful. The need for investment to achieve the ambitions of the strategy should be highlighted in the strategy. There should be transparency around decisions on investment in key heritage sites (such as Crow Nest Park, Tolson Museum, George Hotel, Victoria Tower, Castle Hill and Huddersfield Town Hall).

*“Investment levels into heritage assets’...How much investment? From what level to what level?”*

#### Tangible Actions and Clear Performance Measures

Feedback on the suggested success measures was that some did not adequately demonstrate progress. Having a clearer focus on tangible actions and better performance measures, with outcomes directly evidencing the impact of the Strategy and how well it is working in practice would be key to success.

*“Section 7 on Outcomes provides an unfocused template for any sort of workable action plan for heritage development. Many of the performance indices listed cannot be measured objectively”*

### **Accessible Language**

The Strategy also needs simpler, clearer language so that it is more easily understandable and relatable, particularly in relation to how it can have an impact on the daily lives of local residents and communities.

*“Having read it through carefully I am not convinced that I have understood the whole of it or can appreciate exactly what you are trying to achieve. Even for a degree educated person the language used and the concepts are quite difficult to absorb”*

*“...the realities of what it actually means to me as a resident in Kirklees are not totally clear”*

### **Inclusion, Engagement and Co-Production**

To ensure the Strategy’s success, there is a need to focus on co-production/engagement and the voices of local residents and communities, and on inclusion, particularly in relation to ethnic and cultural diversity and history, including migrant history.

*“Whilst the strategy speaks of “communities” it does not make reference to the rich ethnic diversity within Kirklees. The danger of the strategy being viewed as “white heritage” should definitely be avoided”*

### **Need for Collaboration**

Ensuring the successful implementation of the Strategy should be the collective responsibility of a wider partnership (for example, including the archive service, history groups, civic societies, libraries, independent museums, planning and other Council services), to ensure integrated thinking and ownership.

*“In the long run it would be great to see even more close collaboration than there is at present between Museums, galleries, archives and Local History library provision and between them and the university and local creative industries and heritage organisations. E.g. development of exhibitions, podcasts, plays and films created based on local stories and local places and people. There seems to be too much separation at present.”*

## **4:2:2 Feedback on what is missing from the Strategy**

### **Specific Detail**

Respondents felt that the Strategy needs more specific detail, for example in relation to the future of a number of important heritage assets, such as Tolson Museum; at risk buildings; plans for assets such as photograph and sound archives; and protection for local heritage such as Crow Nest Park, Heckmondwike and Cleckheaton.

It was also felt that reference to the following was missing:

- Library/archive services
- Musical history (e.g. brass bands and choral societies)
- Wildlife, flora and fauna
- Woodlands and rural habitats
- Rural heritage (e.g. small holdings, drystone walls, hedges)
- Industry/pre-industry heritage
- Local history groups
- Twinned towns
- Textiles heritage
- Black abolitionist history
- Local heritage trails
- Coal mining industry
- Engineering pioneers
- Tramway and railway sites
- Links to river/canal corridors.

Some also felt that the Strategy is missing links to wider cultural/tourist objectives. Linked to comments around investment, it was felt important to provide an outline of how conservators/archivists and other heritage staff will be funded. Greater emphasis and acknowledgement/support of the work undertaken by voluntary groups and organisations in preserving, promoting and protecting heritage should be made.

There was also a perception that the strategy would benefit from further emphasis on the wider geographical area of Kirklees, for example North Kirklees, smaller villages and outlying areas (and their histories), and not just a focus on major developments in Huddersfield.

### **Privately Owned Heritage Buildings**

There were comments around the Strategy outlining support for the maintenance/restoration of privately owned properties to help preserve heritage and prevent buildings falling into disrepair; and including consideration of when modernisation might be appropriate as opposed to restoration alone.

*“There is far too much emphasis on preserving things as they are purely because they are old instead of taking key heritage points of particular sites and encouraging positive development that can incorporate, enhance, and make the heritage features more accessible to a wider public”*

However other respondents felt that there was too much emphasis on stories and non-tangible heritage and not enough on preserving existing heritage assets.

### **Funding to Deliver Strategy Ambitions**

It was also felt that the Strategy would benefit from clarity around the support available from within the Council in relation to implementation, as well as identifying partnership links with other Councils (e.g. where there is shared heritage). Reference to funding/how the Strategy will be funded in the future is also needed.

### **The Heritage of Tomorrow**

Respondents would also like to see the Strategy incorporate scope to evolve, for example alongside Government policy and in terms of identifying future (modern day) heritage.

### **4:2:3 Feedback on what is missing from the Strategic Heritage Action Plan**

#### **Commitment to Tangible and Practical Actions**

Respondents felt there should be clear commitment to actions, and that these need to be much more tangible/practical. This was particularly in relation to engagement with residents (of all ages; including North Kirklees; including Parish Councils) and ensuring a focus on co-production/shared ownership of the Strategy.

*“My concern is that the action plan is still quite light on what the ‘actions’ actually mean...what will happen on the ground? What will I, as a resident, see that is different? I don’t know.”*

#### **Marketing and Promotion**

Actions are also needed around the marketing and promotion of local heritage (locally and nationally, via schools, a community heritage hubs network, heritage days, leaflets and oral history projects) in order to generate interest. This should also focus on improving people’s understanding and engagement with heritage.

### **4:2:4 Other Comments**

Other comments made by local residents and communities related to ensuring new developments are not detrimental to heritage; enabling each heritage site to have its own parking facilities; and focusing equally on both small and large heritage sites.

There was reference to the Strategy needing to reflect sustainability given the current economic climate; and that a stronger focus on political support and collaborations/partnerships is needed (with examples of these highlighted within the Strategy). It was suggested that the expertise and knowledge of existing Council staff could also be harnessed to help ensure the Strategy is successful.

There was also a comment that the publishing of the Cultural Delivery Plans would help with understanding responsibilities/areas in relation to the Heritage Strategy.

There were some suggestions around generating income, for example by using the upper floors of heritage buildings as accommodation for local residents, or by making heritage sites multi-purpose (e.g., shared use for school learning, weddings, film locations).

It was also commented that there could be better identification of and custodianship of heritage assets.

## 5: Additional Feedback from Public Engagement, Meetings and Briefings

A range of engagement in addition to the online survey was carried out (see [Appendix Section 7:2](#)). This included public events, Members' briefings, public Council meetings and meetings with key stakeholders. Common themes represented from this engagement included:

- Positive feedback for the collaborative and place-based community approach
- The need for representative diversity across Kirklees and in local areas
- The need to acknowledge and build on the existing partnerships that have underpinned the development of the strategy
- The broader concept of heritage should be communicated more effectively
- The role of some key stakeholders – such as libraries and schools/young people – need more emphasis and further development in the action plan

Based on responses, the strategy and action plan were generally felt to be a positive step in ensuring the successful protection and engagement of heritage assets within Kirklees. Many agreed that heritage is a valuable asset to Kirklees and a particular focus on the collaborative place-based approach was seen to be the way forward.

The Cultural Delivery Plan approach with a concentration on community need for local areas, received positive comments and was felt to be a positive way to tackle the size and diversity of Kirklees. These were welcomed as opportunities to offer people a voice and ensure heritage is sustainable across the district.

The proposal for a Heritage Partnership Group and the local Heritage Asset List were also received well, with key partners emphasising the continued good work already happening and the need to develop this into a more sustainable model of working:

## 6: Recommendations

It is recommended that as the Heritage Strategy is revised as a result of consultation feedback highlighted in this report and the Strategic Heritage Action Plan is implemented:

- Cultural Delivery Plans are co-produced with local residents, using a range of methods which remove barriers to ensure wide engagement and understanding. A focus on males, those aged under 45 and those from ethnic/diverse communities will ensure a more representative and inclusive range of involvement than has resulted from this phase of consultation.

- The revised strategy and plan use simpler language to ensure that they are more easily understandable and relatable
- Tangible actions are identified, and outcomes that directly evidence impact of the strategy
- Elements that residents and communities feel are currently missing are considered for inclusion in the strategy itself or feature in the next level of development, as the action plan is implemented and the local Cultural Delivery Plans are developed with communities
- The investment process is transparent
- Future sustainability is considered
- Continue to ensure that there are strong links to the Cultural and Tourism Strategies, which are currently in development
- The strategy continues to be developed as a high-level strategic document and specific areas of heritage noted in the suggested omissions and feedback will be looked at when the local Cultural Delivery Plans are developed in collaboration with communities

To ensure success, it is also recommended that there is targeted public engagement and a partnership/collaborative approach to implementation and ownership, along with effective marketing and promotion of local heritage.

## 7: Appendices

### 7:1 Additional written responses

#### Historic England Response

Historic England  
37, Tanner Row  
York  
YO1 6WP

Deborah Marsland  
Kirklees Museums & Galleries  
Market Office  
Queensgate Market  
Huddersfield  
West Yorkshire HD1 2UJ

04 January 2023

Dear Deborah,

#### **We are Making History: a draft heritage strategy for Kirklees Initial consultation**

We are grateful for the opportunity to comment on the draft heritage strategy for Kirklees.

Historic England was a member of the *Bringing Out the Best* Programme Board, for which the production of the strategy was a key ambition. We are also actively working with Kirklees Council on several conservation and regeneration projects across the district, including providing funding for the *Heritage Action Zones* in Dewsbury and Huddersfield.

It is immensely positive that this strategy is being produced, illustrating the Council's commitment to the appreciation and celebration of the district's varied heritage, both tangible and intangible. We particularly welcome the proposal for more focussed delivery through local Cultural Delivery Plans, responding to the district's size and diversity.

The document comprises a high-level strategy and an action plan. In our comments below we have set out areas where we consider the two documents would benefit from further detail. The first section provides additional reflections on what makes Kirklees special; the second section covers specific elements which are either absent from the strategy or would benefit from further development.

Areas for enhancement or further consideration within the strategy:

Kirklees heritage- what makes Kirklees special?

- All examples of designation asset types in Kirklees should be cited: listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and part of the Adwalton Moor registered battlefield.
- The district's significance as a transport gateway to the Pennines should be referenced. The canals, railways and associated structures are nationally important, such as Huddersfield's grand railway station and the incredible engineering masterpiece of Standedge Tunnel. These transport networks still form an important part of people's lives and are features of which they can be justifiably proud.
- Mills are worthy of specific mention, as they are fundamental to the landscape, history and culture of the district. This is something Historic England is currently highlighting through our [Mills of the North](#) campaign. Mills also provide great opportunities for regeneration, with potential to house the homes and businesses of the future.
- The district also has fine assemblages of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century housing and non-conformist chapels built from local stone, some of which have been converted to new uses.
- While Kirklees has a strong industrial history, largely focussed in the area's urban settlements, the value of the district's rural heritage should also be recognised. Parts of the district lie within the Peak District National Park and there are substantial areas of Ancient Woodland, particularly to the south and east of the district.
- It may be worth further noting the Council's specific roles and responsibilities for managing the tangible heritage of the past in your definition, spanning the built heritage and landscapes of the areas as well as the portable heritage in museums and galleries.

#### Areas for further consideration

- We welcome the reference to addressing the climate change emergency but would recommend inclusion of more proactive actions, in particular:
  - recognition of the carbon benefits of retaining and repurposing historic buildings, rather than building new.
  - the need to undertake informed – not necessarily standard - energy efficiency measures for historic homes, noting that around a quarter of Kirklees households live in pre-1919 buildings ([link](#)).
  - tackling the increased risk to built heritage as a result of climate change causing flooding, increased rainfall and higher temperatures.

Addressing these issues would make a positive difference to people living in and visiting Kirklees.



- There is scope to give greater prominence to the economic value of the historic environment. The action plan should identify the importance of integration with other departments and external partners to create the right investment opportunities and deliver high quality development solutions for heritage assets. In particular, the Council's Conservation Planning and Regeneration teams should play an active and integrated role.
- Heritage-led regeneration is key to town centre renewal. The action to complete delivery of the High Street Heritage Action Zones (page 27) would benefit from a reference to securing their legacy. Further, we would recommend more detailed reference to other existing investment programmes, including the Blueprints for Huddersfield and Dewsbury, as well as any planned investment in secondary towns.
- Only one third of conservation areas in Kirklees currently have an appraisal or management plan. The strategy would benefit from actions that support bringing forward plans for management and enhancement of these places to make them ready for investment.
- Craft skills and use of traditional materials should be promoted. The Kirklees district is remarkable for its high-quality building stone, which is still being quarried. Traditional construction and craft skills do not only represent intangible heritage but are also essential to support the protection and enhancement of the district's historic places.
- Collaboration with other local authorities is important, particularly over joint assets such as Kirklees Park, Bretton Hall, National Coal Mining Museum and Adwalton Battlefield, and cross-boundary projects such as the TransPennine Rail Upgrade. There would also be benefits from greater collaboration with University of Huddersfield and colleges, amenity societies and community groups.
- The analogy between heritage and theatre is a striking one, which will encourage readers to think of heritage in fresh ways. However, it is less clear what it might mean to 'stage a wonderful heritage show', who this is for and the role of residents and visitors as audience members and participants.
- Pride in Place is implicit in the concept of 'Perception' in your 5 key principles section. Use of the term 'pride in place' could be used to relate to the role of heritage in levelling-up.
- We recommend further consideration of how to reflect the diverse cultural heritage of the district. This could be explored in tandem with plans to engage with new or marginalised communities to foster an increased sense of place and belonging. It would also be interesting to see how this might relate to initiatives such as Creative People and Places, which has a specific remit to increase arts participation from communities with low engagement levels.

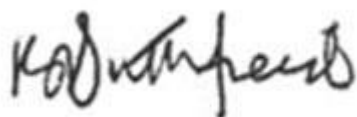
- Is there more potential for 'community ownership' of places, with heritage as part of the mix, to support the aims of the framework? There are some excellent local examples of this in Kirklees, including Britain in Bloom and other grassroots activity where community activism has been mobilised.
- Finally, it is essential that there is sufficient partner and community buy-in to the framework. To some extent we assume that this will come through the pilot work on Cultural Delivery Plans but building networks and relationships locally and corporately will be required. Planning and resourcing this activity will be key to unlocking the potential which the framework provides to engage a wider coalition of support for the heritage across Kirklees.

### **Next Steps**

We reiterate our support for the Heritage Strategy and the associated activities on which we are working with the Council. We would welcome ongoing discussions about the Strategy as part of our continued partnership working with Kirklees.

In the meantime, if you would like to discuss anything further please do get in touch.

Kind regards,



Richard Butterfield

Partnerships Team Leader (Yorkshire) [richard.butterfield@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:richard.butterfield@historicengland.org.uk)

## Heritage Open Days Committee



Kirklees

# Heritage Open Days

Committee

Please reply to: [kirkleeshod@gmail.com](mailto:kirkleeshod@gmail.com)

### **RESPONSE TO 'WE ARE MAKING HISTORY' (DRAFT HERITAGE STRATEGY FOR KIRKLEES)**

Heritage Open Days (HODs) is England's largest festival of history and culture, involving thousands of local volunteers and organisations. Every year in September it brings people together for 10 days to celebrate their heritage, community and history. Stories are told, traditions explored, and histories brought to life. Thus it exemplifies the 'People, Places and Things' definition of heritage at the heart of the draft strategy, and we welcome the strategy's renewed focus on heritage in all its aspects.

In Kirklees, HOD events are co-ordinated by our Committee, a voluntary partnership of civic and local history societies from across the Borough, with Council representation from Museums & Galleries and Libraries. Though very dependent on voluntary effort, we have been successful over recent years in substantially boosting the profile of HODs in Kirklees, but could do more if our efforts were more strongly embedded in, and supported by, a wider heritage strategy. We are tantalised by the 'Heritage Festival' which appears on the draft strategy's graphic signpost motif, a concept which is not developed within the draft but which we believe we are already offering as best we can (and return to below).

Looking at the last five years, 2017-22 inclusive (excluding 2020 when Covid precluded most activities), there has been an average each year of 65 events within the Kirklees HOD programme, and a total of about 175 unique events, reflecting a baseline of regular annual participants plus a healthy turnover of new events each year. A rough breakdown shows events and openings falling into the following broad categories:

- 42 secular buildings opened to the public, ranging in age from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.
- 40 places of worship – largely but not exclusively Christian churches, and with a big opportunity via wider networks to extend the participation of other faith groups.

- 37 walks introducing locations and stories of historical interest.
- 27 talks, workshops, artistic performances and other hard-to-categorise events.
- 15 exhibitions specifically put on for the occasion.
- 7 events in parks and gardens
- 6 museums – the major Kirklees Council sites make a large contribution, but others are involved too.

Geographically, all parts of the District have been involved, albeit inevitably with some unevenness, which we continually strive to redress. We wonder if Libraries could play a stronger role here in securing wide coverage.

Of course the individual events have been organised, not by ourselves, but by a wide range of building owners and community groups, informing the public about histories and heritage assets while engaging many hundreds of volunteers across the district. Their dedication and imagination are the great strengths of HODs – our role is to co-ordinate, support and promote, albeit with very limited resources.

In doing that, lines of communication have been established with other key players such as WOVEN, the Council's community cohesion team and, now, the Year of Music, always with the aim of maximising the synergies between Heritage Open Days (which has an annual, optional national theme) and the local cultural offer.

We suggest, therefore, that Heritage Open Days has much to build on and much to offer as one visible focal point, annually, for the Heritage Strategy. In particular:

- We welcome the proposed Heritage Partnership group and would like to be involved. A wider partnership than we have built so far could provide a more sustainable umbrella for HODs in future years.
- We see promise in the proposed online Heritage Hub as a central point of reference. However, we note that not all audiences for heritage are digital, and that to date there have only been two digital events within the Kirklees HOD programme. It is vital that digital promotion continues to be balanced by print media.
- We would like to know more about the 'Heritage Festival' concept. We note, for example, that the locally-branded Halifax Heritage Festival coincides with Heritage Open Days, and believe that building on an existing national profile with an established position in the calendar could be an excellent foundation for a Kirklees 'Heritage Festival'.
- Alternatively, if there is a risk of cramming too much into one 10-day period, HODs could be complemented by a local spring heritage festival, to which we could bring our network of contacts and experience. One drawback of the September fixture is the difficulty of involving schools at the start of the school year, which this could redress.
- Many listed buildings already open for HODs, and HODs or a further festival could also highlight additions to the proposed Local Heritage Assets List.

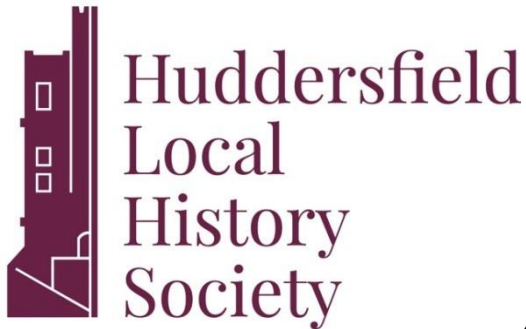
If we have a criticism of the draft strategy, it would be that as it stands it seems somewhat abstract. It could be enriched by the wealth of practical experience in engagement with heritage represented by the HODs community in Kirklees; just as that community could draw strength from greater recognition and support at corporate level.

**DAVID GRIFFITHS, Chair, for Kirklees Heritage Open Days Committee  
December 2022.**

*NB This response is the view of the voluntary members of the KHOD Committee. The constituent organisations may be responding individually to the Strategy as a whole.*

KHOD Committee members: Discover Huddersfield, Holme Valley Civic Society, Huddersfield Civic Society, Huddersfield Local History Society, Kirklees Libraries, Kirklees Museums & Galleries, Spenn Valley Civic Society.

## Huddersfield Local History Society



### ‘We are making History’ – a draft Heritage

#### Strategy for Kirklees

##### A response from Huddersfield Local History Society

Huddersfield Local History Society (HLHS) is a membership organisation now approaching its fiftieth anniversary – a history almost co-terminus with that of Kirklees Council. Its object is to support people of all ages and levels of experience in their shared interest in and enjoyment of the history of Huddersfield and district. To that end it is committed to encouraging original research into local history topics by its members and others and to sharing the results of that work in whatever forms and through whatever partnerships might be appropriate.

Current membership exceeds 250 drawn principally from Huddersfield and the Pennine Valleys of the Colne the Holme and Dearne. It also has a much wider UK and international reach with Huddersfield ex-pats and their families around the world. That reach is augmented by its website (<https://www.huddersfieldhistory.org.uk/>) and was significantly extended during the Covid Lock-Downs when the HLHS monthly talks were recorded and posted on YouTube.

It has an annual programme – September to June – of monthly talks and an annual visit. All its talks are open to members and non-members and, as such, constitute ‘Public’ events. Speakers are drawn from the HLHS membership as well as from visiting researchers with a shared interest in our local history. Each year there is a ‘History Day’ with contributions from members and visiting academics all addressing the same theme. The 2022 History Day was on the theme of *Huddersfield at Play* with contributions on Music, Rugby League, Cricket and Bhangra.

An important aspect of the Society’s role is its collaboration with the University of Huddersfield’s Centre for History, Culture and Memory. That collaboration takes a number of forms but principally by all the HLHS monthly talks being held at the University and by the joint sponsorship of an annual public *Luddite Memorial Lecture*. That lecture, delivered by nationally important historians, ranges across the wide spectrum of British, and particularly West Yorkshire, Social History. The University also collaborates with HLHS in promoting a prize for research in local history, open to hitherto unpublished researchers, and named for the late Edward Law, a much-respected local historian.

The commitment to sharing the results of new research in local history also takes the form of publications. HLHS has an annual *Journal*, regularly celebrated by the British Association for Local History, to which members and others submit the results of their research. In addition to that HLHS has an ambitious programme of more substantial publications which are promoted in a much wider market and, to which end, feature regularly in Waterstones Huddersfield bookshop, Huddersfield Local Studies Library, the Tolson Museum, Colne Valley Museum and other retail outlets.

HLHS collaborations and its members’ contributions are also evident in *Discover Huddersfield*, where HLHS members have written and led many of its trails. The same is also true of the *Heritage Open*

*Days and in the Memories of Our Square* project which is led by two of the Society's Committee members. This three-year project is funded by the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) programme, led by Historic England and supported by Kirklees Council.

In the breadth of its activities currently and over almost fifty years, the Society has done much to sustain the notion and understanding of the unique – and still developing – sense of our local heritage. For that reason we welcome Kirklees Council's commitment to that heritage in its 'We Are Making History' Draft Heritage Strategy. In particular (p.04) its 'vision and support for the work of the local voluntary heritage sector' and its intention to create 'the conditions for collaboration and growth which will support individuals and communities to tell their stories'. It is also re-assuring to see, on p.07 and 09, Kirklees' commitment to ensuring that it meets national statutory requirements. As is the inclusion within the Heritage Strategy of 'Museums, art galleries, archives, libraries and their collections' and in doing so acknowledges the institutions which make possible the research, collaboration and sharing which constantly refresh and renew our understanding of the detailed reality of our local history. Without that work notions of 'heritage' can slip too easily into stereotype and cliché.

Further, Huddersfield Local History Society,

- Understands that such 'strategy' reports are written at a remote level of abstraction but would prefer its generalities to be illustrated by real-world examples
- Welcomes the report's emphasis on place and diversity
- Stresses the crucial importance to work in local history and, therefore to the Heritage Sector as a whole, of the provision of continuing and enhanced access to source material in the shape of libraries, museums and archives.
- Welcomes the proposed Heritage Partnership Group and would like to be involved, similarly the place-based Cultural Delivery Plans.
- Looks to the Heritage Strategy to encourage further collaborative working with other Heritage Sector providers and support for events publicity and for the dissemination of publications.

CYRIL PEARCE

Chair, Huddersfield Local History Society

23 December 2022

*NOTE: Page references above are to the printed rather than the on-line version of 'We are making History' – a draft Heritage Strategy for Kirklees.*

## Denby Dale Parish Council Response

### Kirklees Draft Heritage Strategy

response from Denby Dale Parish Council

- We fully recognize the importance of Kirklees managing its own heritage assets but are pleased with the intention to “involve partners” and “create the conditions for collaboration and growth”.
- We welcome your proposal to develop place-based CDPs, with “local engagement and co-production ..... to ensure that they are rooted in community need”.
- We hope that Denby Dale will be one of the “specific localities” referred to and are keen to engage with any such place-based CDP.

.....  
Denby Dale Parish Council already has a Heritage Working Party.

-We fund and manage a local history website [www.denbydalekirkburtonarchives.co.uk](http://www.denbydalekirkburtonarchives.co.uk) which aims to preserve and give public access to the work of several notable local historians.

-We have published 6 local history books (5 new, one a re-print), which reflect the “stories and identities of our communities”.

-We have supported the Skelmanthorpe Textile Heritage Centre in a former Weaver’s Cottage.

(see <https://fosthc.wixsite.com/skeltexheritage> )

-We have supported the Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome Group, many of whose trail leaflets have a strong heritage element (see [www.denbydalewalkersarewelcome.org.uk](http://www.denbydalewalkersarewelcome.org.uk)) and link to your forthcoming tourism strategy.

.....  
The Denby Dale area has a fascinating and diverse heritage.

This includes:

- textiles, coal, clay, quarrying and farming
- the Iron Age Hill Fort at Castle Hill High Flatts
- the High Flatts Conservation Area, home of Quakers since 1652
- the Denby Dale Pies
- the Penistone Line railway with the former Clayton West Branch Line (a major tourist attraction)
- the magnificent Denby Dale Viaduct with its fascinating story
- the Clayton West packhorse bridge
- the Emley Moor TV mast



## **Spen Valley Civic Society**

As the Secretary of Spen Valley Civic Society I was not aware of the development of the strategy, nor of the public consultation, and I don't think other relevant organisations in Spen Valley are aware of it either. So I shall be forwarding Deborah Marsland's email to them and inviting them to respond. I hope that Huddersfield, Holme Valley Civic Societies will be responding too!

The points that strike me are:

1. Great that Kirklees now proposes to create a Local Heritage Assets List – other Local Authorities have had these for years and the lack of one in Kirklees has been an impediment to saving/sustaining local assets.
2. Great that Kirklees now recognises the central role heritage plays in economic growth, jobs, visitors, reputation etc. A change from viewing its heritage buildings etc as liabilities, and instead viewing them as potential assets is long overdue and very welcome.
3. As with its Local Plan, this strategy focuses on Huddersfield and Dewsbury (apart from mention of its museums outside those settlements) and so the only mechanism of including all the other places in Kirklees seems to be Cultural Development Plans.
4. Libraries are included in the definition of heritage on page 11 but are not mentioned again. Many KMC libraries have important local history or local studies sections, or history groups. Libraries could be used more to showcase Kirklees heritage, putting on events, performances, displays etc and pulling more local residents in.
5. The strategy doesn't include anything specific about how Kirklees could (already does??) support schools in Kirklees to teach our local heritage.

Re your response you could stress that building on the existing HODs festival to make it co-function as a Kirklees Heritage Festival would be a win-win option. Also, our group has improved the "coverage" with events now spread across Kirklees, not just in Huddersfield. That's been achieved by face to face engagement, not by digital means.

## ***7:2 Additional Public Engagement, Meetings and Briefings***

### **Kirklees Council Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**

Reports on the Culture, Heritage and Tourism Strategies were presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 11 February 2021 and 22 November 2022.

[Culture-Tourism-Heritage Strategies.pdf \(kirklees.gov.uk\)](#)

[EconomyandNeighbourhoodScrutinyPanel22.11.2022](#)

### **Culture is Ordinary Conference**

A breakout session on the development of the Heritage Strategy was held as part of the Culture is Ordinary conference and attended by 15 people in November 2022.

### **Pop up Events**

Pop up stalls, at Oakwell Hall, Birstall as part of a Christmas event and at Tolson Museum's Mondays at the Museum social prescribing day in Huddersfield, attracted 88 people.

### **Meetings**

A Members' briefing on 15 November 2022 was attended by 23 Councillors. Meetings were held with key services to discuss feedback on the draft strategy, including the Council's Conservation Planning team, Libraries, and West Yorkshire Archives Service. Meetings were also held with key sector stakeholders, including National Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic England and Arts Council England, and with the Friends of Tolson and Ravensknowle and Huddersfield University's School of Arts and Humanities.

### **Social Media**

Promotion of the survey on social media throughout the consultation period resulted in over 30,000 impressions and almost 750 click-throughs to the survey page.

## ***7:3 Previous Engagement***

### **Bringing out the Best**

The National Lottery Heritage Fund Bringing out the Best programme, which ran from 2019-2021, initiated the development of the Heritage Strategy. The approach to its development and early drafts were discussed at Bringing out the Best Board meetings. Board members included external organisations (Historic England, Arts Council England, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Museum Development Yorkshire) and Council services, including representatives from Policy, Cohesion, Conservation Planning and Assets teams. Public engagement linked to the development of the new museum and gallery in Huddersfield and in North Kirklees linked to existing museum sites also helped to inform the creation of the strategy.

The public engagement reports are available on Involve and the Council website:

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/museums-and-galleries/pdf/public-engagement-report.pdf>

## 7:4 Survey Questions



### Kirklees Heritage Strategy Feedback Form

Kirklees Council wants your views on a new Heritage Strategy for the district.

The strategy 'We are Making History' is currently at draft stage and has been created with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund through their Resilient Heritage funding programme.

The council wants to promote, enhance, and make more accessible the rich heritage of the district, encouraging more people to participate in heritage activity, and is seeking your views on the ideas in the strategy.

Your feedback is important and will be considered and used to improve the strategy and the action plan, before being presented to Kirklees Council's Cabinet for approval and implementation in 2023.

For any help with this form please contact [museum.development@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:museum.development@kirklees.gov.uk).

**This survey will close on 8 January 2023.**

*We are all making history every day.*

*The people and places which make up Kirklees have an amazing story to tell and with your help we can make a strategy for heritage in Kirklees.*



## **Kirklees Heritage Strategy**

These first few questions are on the Kirklees Heritage Strategy

Have you read the full Heritage Strategy?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

If you don't have time to read the full strategy but still want to give feedback, the summary below provides an overview.

### **The Heritage Strategy:**

- Recognises heritage is not only about physical assets such as buildings but also the history of Kirklees, in particular its people, identity and stories and how we tell these.
- Raises the profile of the unique rich and diverse heritage of Kirklees, recognising its importance to the district.
- Seeks to be proactive and innovative in the way our heritage is cared for and sustained, finding creative ways we can enjoy and learn from it, developing it in a way we can ensure it thrives for future generations.

Do you think the Heritage Strategy covers what you think is important about heritage in Kirklees?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

Do you think the Heritage Strategy will make a positive impact on heritage in Kirklees?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure



Overall, do you think the Heritage Strategy will make a difference to people living in and visiting Kirklees?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

Overall, how do you feel about the proposals in the Heritage Strategy?

- I fully support them
- I somewhat support them
- I do not support them
- I am not sure

Please tell us any ideas or feedback you have which you feel would help make the Heritage Strategy successful and anything you think is missing and should be included.

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## Kirklees Strategic Heritage Action Plan

These next few questions are on the Strategic Heritage Action Plan.

Have you read the full Strategic Heritage Action Plan?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

If you don't have time to read the full Strategic Heritage Action Plan but still want to give feedback, the summary below provides an overview.

The Strategic Heritage Action Plan will improve:

- Engagement with communities, creating more opportunities to work together and take part in heritage activity.
- Communication, collaboration and co-ordination across Kirklees and the heritage sector.
- Long term planning for sustainable investment and enhancement of our heritage.

Do you think the Strategic Heritage Action Plan includes the actions needed to improve heritage in Kirklees?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

Do you think the Strategic Heritage Action Plan includes actions which will increase people's engagement with heritage and help them to learn about the district?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure



Please explain your answer above and tell us any actions you feel should be included which are presently missing.

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## **About You**

This section asks you for some details about you.

This information will help us to understand who has responded to the consultation and any differences in views between groups.

As with all the questions, your answers are completely confidential.

None of the questions in this section are mandatory and your responses will not enable us to identify you as an individual.

Please tell us the first part of your postcode leaving no spaces, e.g. WF12 (this will be 3 or 4 characters)

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How old are you...

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 46-55             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18-25    | <input type="checkbox"/> 56-65             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26-35    | <input type="checkbox"/> over 65           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 36-45    | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

Are you...

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male   | <input type="checkbox"/> Not specified     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Binary/Intersex/<br>Gender Fluid/Agender |  |

Is your gender the same as the sex you were registered at birth?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say



We are all making history every day

 Kirklees  
COUNCIL

 HERITAGE  
FUND



What is your sexuality?

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual | <input type="checkbox"/> Asexual           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homosexual   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual     | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

What is your ethnic group?

- Asian or Asian British Includes any Asian background, for example, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Indian, Pakistani
- White British
- White Other
- Black, African, Black British or Caribbean Includes any black background
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups Includes any mixed background
- Another ethnic group Includes any other ethnic background, for example, Arab
- Prefer not to say

What is your religion?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sikh               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations) | <input type="checkbox"/> No religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hindu   | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish  | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim  |   |

Would you describe yourself as disabled?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say



## **Keeping Informed and Getting Involved**

This final set of questions is optional and offers you the opportunity to become more involved and to be kept informed. If you choose to provide your contact details, we won't link them back to your previous responses in the survey and this information will be kept secure and only be used for the purpose we have said. You can ask for your details to be removed at any point by contacting [museum.development@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:museum.development@kirklees.gov.uk).

Are you interested in getting involved with the development of the place based Cultural Delivery Plans within your community (as described in the Strategic Heritage Action Plan)?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

Please provide your e-mail or contact number so we can contact you about heritage activity and engagement. *Please note, by leaving your contact details, you are agreeing to be contacted by Kirklees Council. You can opt out of this by contacting [museum.development@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:museum.development@kirklees.gov.uk).*

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The Heritage Strategy is being developed alongside a Culture Strategy and a Tourism Strategy.

If you would like us to keep you updated on the Kirklees Heritage Strategy and related strategies, please provide your email address, or contact number below. *Please note, by leaving your contact details, you are agreeing to be contacted by Kirklees Council about the Heritage, Culture and Tourism Strategies. You can opt out of this by contacting [museum.development@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:museum.development@kirklees.gov.uk).*

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Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.  
Please return completed paper surveys to:

**Freepost Kirklees Council  
Heritage Strategy**

No stamp is required.



---- End of Survey ----

## Example Twitter Post:

From 22 December 2022 and 8 January 2023.



## ***7:5 Individual Survey Comments***

### **7.5:1 In response to: Ideas & Feedback**

**Please use this box to tell us any ideas or feedback you have which you feel would help make the Heritage Strategy successful and anything you think is missing and should be included. (open text unlimited word count)**

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The Strategy is a positive development. My comments mainly cover activity and engagement, esp in areas that don't relate directly to council-owned assets and organisations. I agree a key measure here can be 'Increased percentage of residents who are satisfied to with their local place as a place to live' (NB to / with typo) but suggest this may arise from other factors such as perceptions of crime, employment opportunities, rather than heritage. It would be good to know that heritage was a factor in that increased satisfaction. And that would suggest a need to be more specific about what activity and engagement is intended. Focus on heritage in events such as WOVEN and Year of Music is a good start, but there needs to be more direction here. There isn't much sense of the convening power of the council operating amongst a range of organisations and groups with an interest in heritage.

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It is very high level and the realities of what it actually means to me as a resident in Kirklees are not totally clear.

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Broader focus on tangible action and the importance of investment in our small towns, parks and museums.

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You need to add and celebrate our local coal mining industry

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local heritage trails

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I'm not sure if the strategy just includes council properties etc when it refers to the "stage" or environment on which it will tell its story. We do have lovely buildings but we don't own them all and some privately owned properties are bound to let the side down. Just look at what happened with the George Hotel. What can the council do about buildings it doesn't own. Is it clear about the ownership of key buildings and is the hit list/naughty list being checked against the Business Rates list to ensure that these bills are being paid. Is it possible to survey those buildings owners eg in Huddersfield town centre which are falling apart, to see what the owners plans are. Do they need some sort of financial support or

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even just the support in principle of the council of any ideas they may have for their properties. To work closely with them and ensure they understand the sorts of things the council would support eg with planning for instance. Let us have a section in our strategy to look at these. Also, my usual complaint, enforcement of things like the horrific shop front/signage on John William Street which I understand is in breach of planning

regulations. We need to simply apply the rules and not let some people/businesses destroy our heritage. Come on, how hard can this be.

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I think co-production is key. Local heritage sites also need to be given as much attention as the larger sites such as the Tolston Museum. The voices of local people need to be central.

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#### Re-open museum at Crow Nest Park

As someone working in Kirklees Local Studies Library I thought the library service should be included in with Museums, Galleries, Archives and collections on page 28 and/or elsewhere. The local studies library collection relates to the culture and heritage of Kirklees and much of our resources are old and of archival quality. In the long run it would be great to see even more close collaboration than there is at present between Museums, galleries, archives and Local History library provision and between them and the university and local creative industries and heritage organisations. E.g. development of exhibitions, podcasts, plays and films created based on local stories and local places and people. There seems to be too much separation at present. Staff from these different organisations might meet at HAZ meetings perhaps but otherwise have to actively seek each other out.

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If this strategy provides a mechanism to make practical, purposeful repairs and enhancements to conserve and develop council owned heritage properties which are currently in dis-repair and fading fast then it will have achieved something great. Your research shows that people feel libraries are very important to them- and as such these buildings could play a huge part in your vision for Kirklees, being the embodiment of how our heritage buildings are still embedded in the daily lives of residents and communities, still providing what they were intended to provide when they were built by our ancestors. Heckmondwike library for example is a Carnegie library building, which is a beautiful building with a green space around it but is sadly falling apart and in need of urgent care so that the upper floor could be used again. How wonderful it would be to see it transformed as part of your programme!

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This initiative is laudable and I support it. The council is to Be commended for even thinking of it. But this is a very dense document. Having read it through carefully I am not convinced that I have understood the whole of it or can appreciate exactly what you are trying to achieve. Even for a degree educated person the language used and the concepts are quite difficult to absorb. In my view it would be helpful to present and explain the strategy through a number of presentations throughout Kirklees which the public could attend, as an alternative to the drop in sessions. I think members of the public would have to be quite committed to plough their way through this document (assuming that they know of its existence). If you want to engage ordinary folk, and people in significant numbers, I believe a different and more inclusive approach is needed.

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Whilst the strategy speaks of "communities" it does not make reference to the rich ethnic diversity within Kirklees. Lack of such a reference may result in members of some communities being less willing to engage. The danger of the strategy being viewed as "white heritage" should definitely be avoided.

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You start from the position that Kirklees' strength is in its diversity. I would dispute that. Kirklees' weakness is in its randomness. It was cobbled together in 1974 from two unlike county boroughs and the odd remaining bits of the West Riding County Council that Halifax, Bradford and Leeds didn't fancy incorporating into their patches. To add insult to injury it was then named after a dissolved former nunnery which Halifax actually did want to incorporate into Calderdale and which doesn't form part of the Borough of Kirklees even now. You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. Kirklees still has no common heritage worth mentioning and it never will have. Admit defeat and abandon the attempt to manufacture one.

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Heritage Kirklees I hope that the council are including Crow Nest Park in this. It's disgusting they why you are letting it decline. It's a beautiful park, with lots of visitor. Especially Saturday when there are over 100 people there doing the park run. There's no cafe, even though it's advertised. And only 1 unisex toilet. Which if your lucky is open for a few hours. It's a beautiful park, the small staff and volunteers who work there do a great job.

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Black Abolitionist Kirklees History is missing!!! It really needs to be included! Black Abolitionists visited Kirklees in the 1800s. Incredible people such as Sarah Remond and Henry Box Brown campaigned in Dewsbury. Frederick Douglas and Moses Roper. Ellen Craft and James Watkins. Together, they visited Kirklees to campaign for the end of slavery and lectured to thousands of local people. Including this Kirklees History will ensure your strategy is more diverse and will represent people of colour. For more information - see the Power of Protest - an online event organised by Kirklees libraries and Kirklees Council BAME network. A recent event at Elim Church, organised jointly by Kirklees libraries, Locala, Elim Church, Kirklees Council staff BAME network was part of the national Heritage Days programme and focused on the Black Abolitionist History of Dewsbury. A cycle trail and walking trail in planned for 2023. For more details - contact Joanne Vaughan [joanne.vaughan@locala.org.uk](mailto:joanne.vaughan@locala.org.uk)

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Tolson Museum has given an insight into the heritage of this area for over 100 years. The building is an integral part of it. Moving this museum to the town centre will remove all the atmosphere, will be difficult to access because the parking is terrible, and will remove all incentives to visit Ravensknowle Park

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While the strategy sets out the key objectives for community co-production and the investment of local areas in sharing their heritage, what systems and processes are in place to support this within the Council? The strategy does not outline how this will be approached, or if the inclusion of this will be diverse and representative to the local population. How diverse and inclusive was the panel that put this Strategy together, and how will equity be embedded?

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“Kirklees’ strength is in its diversity”... woke, cultural Marxist, nonsense. Diversity is absolutely not a strength. It has increased crime, violence, child grooming, and destroyed social cohesion. “Diversity is a strength” is a lie that is constantly repeated and zero

evidence ever given to support it. The strategy is fundamentally flawed, as its basis is Woke, cultural Marxist, neoliberal, toxic feminist, antiindigenous, nonsense.

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I think the strategy was very general and didn't cover specifics like where the new museum will be located ( I think this is in the Huddersfield Blueprint) or what will happen to Tolson museum once the museum there has been relocated

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-I read the first 20 pages of this document which could be summed up in a single page of A4  
- There is a large amount of spin and jargonist language which is completely meaningless and provides no tangible strategy for safeguarding or developing the heritage of the district  
- There is very little defined scope or vision for municipal assets. I am concerned that this document is rather an ill-defined smokescreen for 'asset management'. The reference to heritage as more than about buildings appears to be a validation for disposal of key cultural assets such as Tolson Museum and Bagshaw Museum which are already high on the agenda of Kirklees authority, despite a high amount of local opposition. - There is a large amount of ambiguous and unqualified language. What exactly is meant by terms such as 'place-based working' or nebulous phrases such as 'heritage as an asset to our communities and as an opportunity, not a liability'? - This is supplemented by frankly inane analogies such as "Kirklees as a place of theatre, with the 'Kirklees Story' told through the medium of theatre" and buildings as simply 'props' - again a marker of physical cultural assets seen as disposable as a cost saving measure - Section 7 on Outcomes provides an unfocused template for any sort of workable action plan for heritage development. Many of the performance indices listed cannot be measured objectively and are overly generalised cliched statements which are lacking in any clear purpose. - There is a large overlap in performance measures for different outcomes with repetition of the same outcome measures under different workstreams. - One stated performance measure is 'percentage of unused heritage assets with secured funding' - this needs qualification, what percentage, how is it measured, are we talking about a reduction or increase in this percentage and what is the existing figure? - Similarly the phrase "Investment levels into heritage assets". How much investment? From what level to what level? By what percentage? - The same can be said of the aim to 'improve auditing of existing performance management' that appears on page 27 in the Appendix headed under Duty of Care. How will this be achieved? Through what actions? - The whole strategy needs to be better defined, far more focused in its scope and overall less sensationalist in an attempt to justify restructuring of the cultural estate.

I think that Kirklees Textile heritage and rich cultural diversity should be at the forefront of the strategy.

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The SHAP will have to publish the ugly truth about Kirklees past. How the BME community were/are treated, down to the housing offered in 1950-2000 before moving forward. For example Springwood, Bath Street, Deighton, Fartown areas etc. These areas had condemned buildings and were only offered the BME community to purchase as no one else wanted to live there. These properties housed several families in separate rooms due to the large immigration influx at the time based on the invitation from Mr Enoch Powell, the then Health Minister for people from "Colonies" to come to The Motherland to work for the NHS and in the local mills. These people weren't welcomed with open arms. Still,

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today some are still struggling to survive and be accepted in Kirklees. Their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are still suffering and trying to find a space in Kirklees where they can fit in, be accepted and one day find a place called "Home". When I say "Home" I'm not just talking about bricks and mortar here, I'm talking about feeling safe and secure in and around the town centres as well as walking down their own street and going to school. You need to target people in their own homes...do a leaflet drop to every home in Kirklees, especially those homes which SHAP's decisions will affect. Not everyone has internet access. You NEED to get to EVERY COMMUNITY.

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Given the scope of the policy I would like to see a broader group of people involved in driving it forward. From the document it would appear that Kirklees Museum & galleries Service will be put in charge of the strategic action plan and revisiting updating this. How will other partners such as the archive service, local history libraries, independent museums and groups be included? Without them I feel that the strategy is likely to be narrow in focus and not representative of all of the great local heritage assets Kirklees has to offer.

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Heritage strategy was a word salad, didn't see any concrete recommendations and a lot of touchyfeely aspirations. I am degree educated and in History and English so I know whereof I speak and I didn't read anything really tangible. All talk and few real plans. What's happening at the Tolson for instance?

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Leave our Castle hill alone. Make the present owners rebuild the hotel and pub that they demolished illegally

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I think the Heritage Strategy will have a negative impact on thee people of Kirklees. Schemes such as this, along with the input from Historic England serve to thwart progress and positive development of the town and ultimately discourage investment. There is far too much emphasis on preserving things as they are purely because they are old instead of taking key heritage points of particular sites and encouraging positive development that can incorporate, enhance, and make the heritage features more accessible to a wider public. Castle Hill for instance would have far greater appeal and has the potential to become a huge draw for visitors if it included some decent facilities; restaurant/coffee shop, visitor centre, toilets, visitor centre etc. Instead of simply being a bleak, unwelcoming hill with little to encourage visitors apart from being a place to toilet their dogs. Similarly The George Hotel could have been totally demolished apart from the classic facade. Behind it could have been a completely new-build structure in tune with the needs of a modern town - work space, residential, retail, leisure or a combination, in an environmentally friendly and energy efficient facility. Outwardly it could have maintained its iconic status as part of the character of the town, whilst inside being a stateof-the art modern, fit for purpose building. The millions squandered on re-furbishment will achieve the mediocre at very best. Time for Kirklees to think outside the box, stop concentrating so much on the past and look forward to what could be a bright new, dynamic and modern future. Perhaps take a leaf out of the University's book!

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I object to the redevelopment of Castle Hill. The profile of the tower is now iconic for the area. A hotel will detract from this.

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For goodness sake leave Castle Hill alone. It's Rediculous to put a massive hotel etc there. It's almost criminal.Plus Huddersfield will be the laughing stock of the country playing about with Castle Hill.

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Generally, I feel the Strategy addresses current conceptions of heritage but does have adequate scope to evolve as circumstances (such as government policy or the conception of heritage evolves).

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Ensure the Tolson Museum is kept open! Rescind building permission on Castle Hill! Scrap the so called " Blueprint " ! Use the George Hotel for the "reason " it was bought for! That is to house the Rugby League Museum! Clean up Birkby, Brackenhall, Sheepridge and Deighton! Clean out the drug dealing, the gangs,the stabbings! Clean up Cross Church Street by clearing out all the rat-infested, hygiene in-rated take aways , this street is a disgrace to our once great Town! SHO! CARRY ON??

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The current document is incredibly generic and vacuous - some sections could represent any local authority. It needs more nuance and it also needs more honesty about the current situation - which buildings / museums are at risk for example, what plans exist for sites and assets such as the photographic and sound archives in Kirklees and how this strategy meshes with wider cultural and tourist objectives. At the moment there is very little detail. I realise that there will be place based objectives but there also needs to be an overarching vision for the district. The involvement of partner organisations is not clear as yet.

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Instead of spending stupid amounts of money on paintings and flower pots. Use it to restore our lovely old buildings and rid the streets of leggers and street drinkers

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I agree with the heritage strategy in principle but I am concerned this sounds like Kirklees is making a concerted shift away from preserving structural heritage (which is costly) towards cheaper alternatives I.e. the stories of people. The local history of the area and its people are of course vitally important but only within the context of the physical history of the area and its buildings. It is so so important that these buildings are not lost. I have seen this a lot in the local area lately with calderdale council selling the beautiful Hipperholme Library building to Kirklees planning to change the use of the Tolston Museum. I completely understand the financial pressures on local councils with all the budget cuts but this local heritage is so so important I think there should be a real shit towards repurposing these buildings into multi use spaces that better benefit the community. For example, could the Tolston museum not only be a museum and school learning resource but perhaps some of the spaces inside could be used to host weddings and functions which could draw in a lot of extra money which could be used to maintain and repair the building. Could this building also be used as a filming location or events space? Perhaps the way to draw attention to the unique, rich and diverse heritage of the area to draw attention to it could be made

through promoting it via famous or influential people who live in or are from the area to grasp the attention of the local people and those outside the area. Just a few thoughts.

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You want to engage people in the Strategy and obtain their views but it is not written in their language. The whole thing is "council-speak" written for the Council and referring to the Council as an internal audience to get through Cabinet. Unless you translate it will mean nothing to residents. What exactly does it mean you plan to do and how will it affect their "place".

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Beautifully written but I feel it is wordy and not of a language that will connect with the people of Kirklees, if that is its intention of the document. I worry too that the outcomes are vague and not specific enough. I guess if the aim of the strategy is a document to be circulated to funding agencies, council members and senior council officers, the broad aspirations come across well. But I don't see it as a working document, unless a more detailed plan will follow that specifically outlines more detailed outputs people will see on the ground. These will be the things that the people of Kirklees can ultimately relate to. At the moment it says the right things, about working with local people and communities for example, but people will want to know how will this work in practice.

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Could we have a place in Dewsbury that shows our town's Heritage, and also offers a place to learn about our history and do courses dedicated to history that have access to archives and information that would be relevant to Dewsbury and its villages. We have a learning quarter with the Kirklees collage could we also have a heritage quarter added to it? the only places that offer GCSE's or degrees in history or Archaeology is at Durham University and the like often people have to be highly qualified to attend. could the Council offer courses to the public that want to learn this but do not have the capability to go long distances or have qualifications coming out of their ears. if any of this is a good idea, I would be interested in Volunteering to help out.

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I feel that the strategy should also include links to twinned towns and why they're twinned and whether each town/village can help with each other's heritage. Town twinning happened for a reason, right?

E.g. Holme Valley and Canton D'Imphy, Unna way in Huddersfield etc. I feel like these partners have not been consulted and it would be a shame not to include them as they are part of Kirklees' heritage

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The heritage strategy seems vague and doesn't actually make any solid, definite commitments, as far as I can tell. It would be good to have some clarity on the future of the Tolson Museum. While it has been made public that there will be a museum in the centre of Huddersfield, and it has been suggested that the Tolson will no longer be used as a museum, I have been able to find no firm ideas about how the council might use the building. The building is, in itself, a memorial, and there is a covenant on the building stating that it must be used for educational or recreational purposes. I cannot see how the council can commit to opening a new museum in the town centre in the absence of a clear plan for the future of the Tolson Museum.

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On repurposing buildings. Dewsbury Museum and Red House Museum closed 2016 - no new purpose, or community use has been established. Tolson Museum, proposed closure / repurposing, when new museum and art gallery is built in Huddersfield town centre. No date confirmed for target completion of this key element of Cultural Heart project. Tolson, although locally enjoyed is commonly regarded as a museum where nothing changes and something the Council want to be rid of. Regardless of what eventually materialises in the town centre, Tolson Museum needs investment now, to prevent further disrepair and to develop it's displays and exhibitions and events programme, demonstrating the Council's commitment to delivering and promoting heritage, culture and tourism. Victoria Tower, Castle Hill, also could be a significant tourist attraction if invested in and developed to a high standard of visitor experience. Creating links between various strategies, tourism etc. and developing local CDPs is all well and good, however, straightforward investment in existing infrastructure and services would have more of an impact than another strategy.

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I think that Kirklees should be looking to reopen/open more often the museums in every town in Kirklees. Our magnificent buildings, parks, landscapes and monuments are THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF OUR HERITAGE. Stories could be written about the people, crafts created, photographs framed, historical artefacts renovated, and displayed in our current museums, and the recently closed museums should be reopened and used to show our history.

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The great things about Kirklees have been created by white people and capitalism. Today in Holmfirth, Marsden and Slawit you can still see these wonderful communities and traditions hanging on for dear life, surrounded by the low IQ criminal classes brought into the area by the council. Kirklees Council's recent track record is that of cultural terrorists importing and supporting Pakistani and Gujarati religious fundamentalists and drug dealers who have destroyed the culture of everywhere they live. How can you be the ones to protect the area's heritage?

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Full of meaningless 'woke words, which would be beyond comprehension to those who created the heritage you claim to wish to celebrate.

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The museums and libraries of Kirklees give a comprehensive and enjoyable way of learning about the heritage of the area. Yes people can give their stories but we need a permanent record which can be visited by children and visitors to the area. Kirklees take notice of the people who have lived and worked here and whose families were born and bred here for generations. Please listen for once!!!

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The strategic plan is again too heavily focused on Huddersfield, with little consideration for North Kirklees. Support for Dewsbury is piecemeal at best, reflecting a limited consideration outside Huddersfield.

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Clearly, the strategy has been well produced and thought out. The corresponding action plan also appears well produced. My concern is that the action plan is still quite light on

what the 'actions' actually mean. There is a lot of strategy and policy aims: collaboration/co-creation and new boards being set up but what will happen on the ground? What will I, as a resident, see that is different? I don't know.

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Little mention of music as part of the heritage of Kirklees, particularly brass bands and choral societies. Also would like reference to rural heritage in the form of small holdings, drystone walls, hedges etc. Important to help these sections of the areas heritage to be protected for the future.

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Keep the local history at Tolson museum. Promote interest by involving local schools to interact with the museum.

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Ensure multicultural engagement. Heritage is not just the activities of white middle class. Focus has to be on developing pride in the community. Sadly, too many are negative about Huddersfield and cynical about the council's ability to deliver. Increase the pace!

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Make sure you tell our story honestly.

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I love the heritage open days but if there could be more opportunities for those and better advertising that would be beneficial.

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Stop closing museums Stop merging towns so there are no boundaries Stop building on green spaces Stop giving planning permission to Amazon which will destroy towns and communities

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Kirklees have, since it's formation, allowed many buildings in it's 'ownership' to fall into disrepair. Why would anyone think that it is fit to have stewardship over anywhere. Producing a "plan" and following it are two very different things.

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Likely to struggle to achieve given real term reductions in council funding and likely increase in demand for council to support impact of cost of living crisis. Great ambition but as ever council will be criticised if not achieved due to other pressures. Good Luck

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Unclear about the precise aims in respect to certain aspects eg concrete proposals about future of museums such as Tolson, Castle Hill (especially as part of the site is in private ownership). Strategy mentions eg Red House which is no longer open so quite what the strategy means about sites like this is not clear. Welcome the focus on heritage and the wider meaning of that word as it can encompass some innovative and creative activities.

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This is a good idea but unless you provide more parking facilities near each individual site . Take a leaf out of the National Trust I am a member and have visited lots of sites the first thing I do before planing a visit is to see if there is near by parking.

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The physical assets are very important to the museum is not yours to take away it belongs to the people of Dalton if you don't want to be responsible for its upkeep then give us a chance to take it over as a community.

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Considering the importance and global significance of our heritage and stories e.g. the global significance of Mary Taylor and her feminist writings. Being specific about what conditions are required to achieve the strategy ambitions. Considering a performance measure around the number of heritage groups grown or sustained.

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The Heritage Strategy if implemented will take on a massive list of crumbling heritage sites. I support the scheme and just hope the funds to be provided will enable the strategy to be fulfilled.

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The heritage as theatre framework is quite helpful but raises a number of issues: Local stories are not enough on their own - they need to be connected and set within contexts that embrace regional, national and international events, processes of change and continuity. If not they remain local fragments that do not provide a coherent understanding of the links between past, present and future. Legacies of empire/imperialism, international trade, settlement, environmental transformation, power, protest, identity, belonging cannot only be understood by fragments. Stories approach also requires sustainability and longevity. Ensuring that these programmes of activity contribute to lasting understanding is important. Ensuring that heritage planning and programming helps to develop resources and outputs that are of lasting value and remain accessible after short term funding ends. This is where the theatre metaphor is weaker unless you have a wide notion of different kinds of theatre - touring, regional, local. A theatre relies on bringing in new audiences for new productions. Your history and heritage strategy needs to build and retain its assets from one season to the next. A theatre programme requires catering for different interests, minority as well as mainstream. Culturally led development fosters uplift, well-being, cohesion etc but it should also inspire, challenge and encourage awareness. It should not just be about entertaining. Ensure that your strategy provokes and liberates creativity and originality too. Where is MUSIC in your planning? Carnival, Steel pan, choral, Bhangra, orchestra etc Where is practical demonstration of inclusivity in your strategy. You need to demonstrate that commitment in your examples even at a strategic level - visitors might include Paul Robeson, abolitionists/self-liberators. Why signs only in English (okay there's a variety in Kirklees so you avoid singling out others by just having English)? Film heritage is very strong locally - a symbol indicates its inclusion but please ensure this visual heritage is made available from all its different sources scattered locally. Natural heritage - landscape may be indicated but what about wildlife, flora and fauna? Integrated thinking is key to your strategy working.

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The linkages between geographical parts of the District need weaving together ie the river and canal corridors. Also we need to capture the stories of migrant workers - many Ukrainian and Italian citizens came here in the 50s. Their stories are dying with them.

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The professional language may be too complex for most readers. A simplified version could be useful.

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Need to build on things that are happening successfully already.

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I think it falls short of what is required for Kirklees as there is a long history of demolishing the history of the region in favour of new buildings which quickly become dated looking. These then get a "regeneration program" which would not have been needed if the original building had been kept. Half of the town centre is concrete, and not from the Roman era.

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A total waste a money money would be better spent on Tolson Museum and the Town Hall in Huddersfield

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It's very important that ALL aspects of Kirklees heritage is covered. I hope that there will be separate groups covering the out lying areas of Kirklees.

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You should be safeguarding not destroying our heritage. Keep and renovate Tolson museum, keep our current library and, if necessary, extend it to return the art gallery to its rightful home, not the representation of an operating theatre it is currently housed in. Stop destroying our architecture and closing our shops, reduce rents so they can afford to remain open. People don't shop in Huddersfield because there are no shops, they go to Halifax instead where there are shops. We don't need more bars, there are too many. Advertise the birthplace of rugby league, ensure the George Hotel has its museum. Make use of what we have and promote it, the town hall could host concerts, events and theatre to be enjoyed by people of all ages, not just the pre-war generation. Promoting and utilising what we have will increase footfall and bring in investment, knocking it all down and turning the centre into a field surrounded by bars will create a no go zone for the majority.

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The strategy is full of buzzwords around 'heritage' yet is detail light on how the council plan to fund conservators or archivists in this time of economic squeeze, not much has been made of the need to conserve the assets presently working eg Tolson museum, or is this to be found an 'appropriate used as a 'heritage asset' whilst we spend money on a 'talking heads' museum to represent 'diversity and inclusion' and the 'here and now' You cannot claim this strategy is about the people, identity and stories when you ignore the people of Kirklees when they object to the building of huge developments without looking at updating the supporting infrastructure whilst protecting the history.

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Protection and celebration of our local natural heritage- our ancient woodlands etc, our rural habitats Kirklees pre- industrial past.

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Concentrate more on small villages such as Birstall, rather than Huddersfield, there is a wealth of history in the village relating to Joseph Priestley and the Brontes yet Kirklees do very little to promote this.

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I hope this strategy will recognise more of the areas rich heritage that is not currently protected such as the centres of Heckmondwike and cleckheaton. Both areas that were, perhaps until recently, worthy of conservation area protection. Local lists must reflect this. Also ensure planning applications and allocations pay their legal regard to our heritage and their settings. So many poor decisions in north kirklees especially.

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Huddersfield focussed, nothing for anywhere that isn't a HD postcode. It wont attract me to any venue, especially the ones which are being closed and will be missed. a complete waste of council tax payers money, once again.

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You have systematically destroyed many examples of Heritage over the last 20+ years Red House, Crow Nest being examples. The area has a rich and vibrant history, equally important to the modern day heritage.

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I really appreciate the fact that Heritage is more than Museums and Art Galleries, but also includes parks and canals, as well as buildings used by shops and offices. I think there should be more decentralised information/support for Kirklees Heritage, with general info (updated) about each village/main location, suggestions of places to visit and things to do in that area. This could be achieved by leaflets (distributed in local shops), outdoor panels, and maybe once a month or quarter have a "local Heritage" day, with volunteers showing/telling people face-to-face about the great things in the area.

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Involve local history groups to add their knowledge and databases to the WYAS.

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Just read the facebook comments and then only one option is obvious. Resign.

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Lotsof fine words about overarching ambitions. Not even a wishlist really but honestly found it difficult to relate much of it to my or my familys experience of liv8ng in Kirklees. Guess will have to await an action plan to see

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There are more important priorities to spend Council tax payers money in the current economic climate

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WE NEED MORE ACTIVE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS TO ACT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND COUNCIL, FOR EXAMPLE VOLUNTEER GREEN SPACE VOLUNTEERS, MUSEUM AND LOCAL WALK GUIDES, SPECIAL GUIDES FOR DISABLED GROUPS ETC. LOCAL PEOPLE WILL GENERALLY TALK TO THEM AND THEY BECOME A GREAT SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT THE COMMUNITY THINKS. LOCAL HISTORY IS THE BASIS OF HOW THE COMMUNITY EVOLVED INTO WHAT IT IS AND SHOULD BE MADE EASILY AVAILABLE TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, IT SHOULD BE VIVID AND LIVELY TO ENCOURAGE INVOLVEMENT, PERHAPS THE CREATION OF A VERBAL RECORD OF MEMORIES FROM

CHILDHOOD IE VISITING SITES AND EVENTS COULD INVOLVE WHOLE GENERATIONS OF FAMILIES. HISTORY AND HERITAGE SHOULD BE VIVID AND ALL INCLUSIVE AND NOT BORING .

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As a strategy it reads well and makes sense, where it has potential to fall down is in the delivery. I noticed some problems with the 'Outcomes' (section 7) and the performance measures not matching up enough to measure in a meaningful way. To measure 'Increased aspiration and a sense of identity and belonging amongst Kirklees' residents' by using the Clik survey metric 'Increased percentage of residents who are satisfied to with their local place as a place to live' doesn't work in relation to a Heritage Strategy, there's no way of know if it was the implementation of the Heritage Strategy that had the impact. The same is true for the 'Participation' outcome.

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It is very unclear about what will actually change as a result of the strategy - in concrete terms not just aspirations. This is missing from the action plan as well. I am not clear what you see as the benefits or purpose of heritage activities other than attracting visitors. There is little acknowledgement of the work done by many voluntary groups preserving and promoting heritage, or what makes the towns and villages of Kirklees different. It could have been written about anywhere.

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I completely agree that the Heritage Strategy is important and that local heritage is of prime importance for social identity and pride in a community. Particularly important is the statement on Page 3 'Each of our communities has a distinctive identity and their own story to tell.' This is so true – Kirklees Heritage is not just limited to Huddersfield and Dewsbury. I have run a Local History Group at Cleckheaton Library for nearly 5 years and delivered presentations myself and with other speakers but we have never, so far, repeated a subject or been short of material about our area. We are passionate about our local heritage and are now looking for a space for a Local Heritage Display and Community Art Space. We have begged for nearly 12 months for the use of some of the empty rooms on the Ground Floor of Cleckheaton Town Hall, only to be turned down again and again by Kirklees Town Hall Management. Whilst the Heritage Strategy contains excellent words and ideas but 'by our deeds we are known'. Please help us, we can raise the money for this project and the Town Hall would be an ideal venue – it is in the heart of the town, near to excellent parking and a secure location. These rooms are empty and unused – it only needs some flexibility of thought to allow some of these rooms to be used for our Heritage Hub. It would be the heart and focus for collecting information from our community and the many small tokens from the past that our local people wish to save. We beg you to help us make the Heritage Strategy come to life in our area. It would not cost Kirklees a penny as we are willing to lease these rooms at a sensible price. We could be a prototype and template for other areas. Caz Goodwill – Secretary and Organiser – Cleckheaton District Local History Group -

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As a relative 'newcomer' to Kirklees (I have lived here for the last 11 years) , I am amazed at how little information there is about the industrial heritage of the area and how it has shaped the culture of the area - I have had to seek out information about the growth of the textile industry and innovation surrounding this, the canals and even the film - making

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industry. There is a distinct lack of reference to these in the Holme Valley where I live. I would like young people and tourists to have more exposure to past heritage and for this to be an inspiration for visitors, with more 'hands on' / 'experiential' or 'immersive' experiences. I am sad that this was not more prominent in the latest draft Holmfirth Blueprint. I think the absence of this type of 'celebration of heritage' is reflected in the lack of support for/ low profile of artisan crafts here.

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I think there should be more consideration of modern-day heritage, and how we choose what is important to us to preserve. I appreciate that this is not always clear, but I would like to see something in the strategy about identifying our 'future heritage' too. I think we should make sure that more diverse communities are represented in the strategy, and that the spaces and histories they share are also preserved, valued, and stories are told about them, e.g. the former Gemini Club in Huddersfield, and the Al Hikmah Centre in Batley.

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I have always thought that in a lot of ways the people of Batley work for themselves and do not rely on the Council doing things for them. The wonderful work done on Blakeridge Mills is a prime example. These beautiful buildings have been transformed into homes for many people and this outstanding example of Batley history is there for all to see and has not been allowed to become derelict. There are so many examples of wonderful old buildings being allowed to fall apart or become subject to arson (not necessarily just in Kirklees). When new buildings replace old it is important that they fit in.

Spenn Valley Civic Society members' Feedback Successful Points

1. Great that Kirklees is now recognising how heritage helps our economy, jobs, visitors & reputation of our area. We hope strategy will result in Kirklees Council viewing its heritage buildings as assets, not as liabilities. This will be a big change from previous actions/attitudes in the Council and we welcome it wholeheartedly: one of our main aims is to champion Spenn Valley heritage and help people appreciate it! We've previously done projects eg. re the Luddites (plaques, a Trail & Sparrow Park with its Luddite statue) & are currently planning a Blue Plaque to Mary Taylor at The Red House Gomersal. We've unsuccessfully asked for action over Cleckheaton Viaduct (Kirklees-owned) and repair of Liversedge Stocks.
2. Proposal for a "Local Heritage Assets List" is very welcome and we'd be happy to contribute Spenn Valley assets for consideration. Most other LA's have such a list so Kirklees would be making good progress by introducing one itself.
3. The strategy focuses on Huddersfield and Dewsbury (apart from KMC museums outside these settlements). The only route to protect heritage in other parts of Kirklees seems to be the proposed Cultural Development Plans. We would welcome an invitation to be involved in making Plans for Spenn Valley.

What's Missing

1. No mention of Planning and Development Control's role in implementing this strategy. LP35 is a positive policy but it will need more proactive involvement, with these departments being key partners. When developments are proposed that affect heritage assets, there should be a presumption that the heritage asset be retained. Similarly, it would strengthen the strategy if it mentioned planning enforcement's role re any works without listed building consent.
2. Libraries are included in the strategy's definition of "heritage" but not mentioned otherwise. Many Kirklees Libraries have good local history sections and/or Local History groups (eg Cleckheaton). Kirklees could use its existing libraries better, to showcase Kirklees Heritage, put on displays & exhibitions, to involve more local residents and simultaneously improve library visitor numbers.
3. We see nothing in the strategy about

supporting schools in Kirklees to teach the next generation about local heritage, or about schemes to enable more children to access heritage "hands on". 4. We'd like to see something about linkages with our neighbouring council areas, maybe sharing resources and projects, where we've got similar themes, eg Industrial Heritage, Cultural and Ethnic Heritage. We should include our work/resources for West Yorkshire Archive Service. 5. We'd like to see something about targeting financial resources so that this strategy is not mere words, but can be translated into deeds.

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Hello. We run Aspley Marina in the Center of Huddersfield. I noticed that canals are mentioned in the heritage plan, and yet the simplest thing, a solid footpath that can be walked on safely through the length of the town Center canal section, hasn't been invested in. Please can you make this a priority. There is so much heritage in the canal system and such a fantastic story of the regeneration and reopening of the Huddersfield narrow canal, it would be such a shame to overlook it. Also, I think a high quality walking tour app with audio on the heritage of Huddersfield/Kirklees would be brilliant. Make it possible so that the awful listed buildings that have become listed ruins, can be knocked down. They are an absolute eyesore. Probably other things too. All the best and good luck with the plans.

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I support the general strategy, understand the focus on council-managed assets but am pleased with the plan to engage partners. I also strongly support the inclusion of stories & identities of our communities as well as buildings and archives. Place-based CDPs seem a good way forward but, as a resident of Denby Dale, I would argue for a CDP based just on the Denby Dale ward (which has a fascinating & diverse heritage) or at most on HD8 (if the CDP is really to be rooted in community need) and not on "Kirklees Rural" in general. I chair Denby Dale Parish Council Heritage Working Party and am secretary of Skelmanthorpe Textile Heritage Centre, but am writing as an individual.

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Woke, cultural Marxist, diverse, nonsense

## 7:5:2 In response to: Actions missing

**Please use this box to explain your answer above and tell us any actions you feel should be included which are presently missing.**

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There's a lot of reference to other documents and strategies and concrete actions are a little unclear

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It needs to be led by the people of Kirklees and focus on what they want to see in terms of heritage preservation. Wide consultation and listening to what people want to see and welcoming new ideas is very important for this to be successful.

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Let's get to grips with those shop owners referred to previously, and include them in learning about our district and heritage. Where are the textile businesses. Why must the Woven Festival always be about knitting something to wrap around a building - not really celebrating our textile heritage is it? We do still have some great textile businesses in Kirklees. I'm thinking that you need to have more of a commercial head on all of this.

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The plan is quite vague and doesn't give specific examples of which people and places will be the focus of collaboration.

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I think there is a danger that the CDPs could be an extra layer of admin and meetings. They might, like the HAZ projects, lead to useful actions, but I think the emphasis could be on supporting existing staff (and volunteers) in the various council departments to work more closely together. There is a lot of knowledge, expertise, and a lot of resources which are not being made the most of. Any funding needs to make it possible for them to collaborate on projects to engage local people and visitors. The expertise and enthusiasm of existing staff needs to be harnessed.

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Im not sure that heritage itself needs 'improving' - perhaps what needs 'improving' or 'increasing' is peoples understanding and engagement with heritage, how they articulate what the district has to offer

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It is not clear how the objectives and actions will translate into engagement with communities and individuals. How do you propose to achieve this engagement in a practical sense. Perhaps examples of how the community would be engaged would be helpful

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As before, I have concerns that the strategy does not have specific mechanisms to engage those from minority communities.

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Refer to previous comment box

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Crow Nest Park is part of the Heritage

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Tolson Museum needs to stay as it is, especially as all that money has been spent on restoring the bird room

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In the current climate, what makes engaging the with the local heritage a priority? How relevant is it for communities who are facing difficulties, and why should they care? In the existing strategy the actions are mainly on the Council's side, which is key - as currently they are the ones leading - but have these actions been co-developed by the people of Huddersfield and what they believe to be important in the current climate? Where is the shared ownership of this heritage and how will it be actioned?

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“Kirklees’ strength is in its diversity” ... woke, cultural Marxist, nonsense. Diversity is absolutely not a strength. It has increased crime, violence, child grooming, and destroyed social cohesion. “Diversity is a strength” is a lie that is constantly repeated and zero evidence ever given to support it. The strategy is fundamentally flawed, as its basis is Woke, cultural Marxist, neoliberal, toxic feminist, antiindigenous, nonsense.

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I don't think the strategy was specific enough to pinpoint exactly how the engagement will be done

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- There is no clear plan for engagement. Throughout the document it is stated that one aim of the strategy is to increase the number of under-represented individuals accessing heritage - However the outcome assessment provides no meaningful measure of increased diversity will be achieved. Instead the outcome listed is the ‘number of residents satisfied with their local place to live’. This is not a related endpoint, there are too many other COH founders and using this as the outcome measure gives little evidence of citizens access to cultural services or increased engagement with cultural activity.

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I think there should be activities to engage people of all ages, including young children right up to senior citizens to involve the whole local community.

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The people you have targeted who will no doubt in the end make the decisions are in more White/Affluent Areas of Kirklees...Tolson Museum/Oakwell Hall etc. They probably do not live in buildings which the council have classified of "Heritage Interest" and therefore are not aware of the restrictions placed on properties to look a certain way. Sometimes it isn't sustainable, environmentally friendly and energy efficient to look after these properties as part of what the SHAP are proposing. At the time of writing the Council cannot afford to heat their own old and often listed buildings and staff are being asked to work from home. Also local listed buildings will be left to go to rack and ruin, which in turn brings down the area, attracts vandalism, antisocial behaviour etc. As per the example of the old Kirklees College site, which used to be the old Infirmary. These buildings then get ripped down by developers as it's cheaper to build new properties rather than to restore old ones in the manner that SHAP would like them to be. Maybe you should leaflet drop

ALL the Residents living in Listed/Heritage Buildings within Kirklees to let them know about this...SHAP to get their personal views well before the closing date of this Strategy!

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The Action Plan is still very high level. It leaves a lot still to be decided and is dependent on the placebased CDPs for the level of detail which will either deliver the changes which support the ambition of the strategy or fall flat. It doesn't make clear where the responsibilities of the council and the CDPs begin and end or the timescales for setting up the CDPs or how many and what areas they will cover. Until the CDPs are formed and their plans made available, It's hard to know what will be delivered by this initiative. Also, I'd like more places to be on the Kirklees map, especially in my area on the border with Calderdale, I hope we don't get lumped in with Huddersfield Town centre as Lindley/Outlane is a quite distinct area.

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It's not clear from the document how the plans will be funded into the future (this seems particularly challenging at the present time) so I'm not confident about how they will be delivered.

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Concrete plans - real world solutions

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New families that live here have no interest in the heritage of this town, also neither does a majority of the council I find it very sad that this town is being left to rot.. I am very proud of the fact I was born here and lived here all my 70 years and yet it has gone down hill so fast..

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Not altogether sure that heritage is a priority for most people. More important is energy efficiency, easy access, environmental credentials and a safe, modern and appealing environment for work, leisure and retail. I mentioned in my previous comment that it is important for the council to embrace the future, don't forget the past but also don't allow it to halt progress.

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Public engagement is fundamental, especially as heritage has become fused with identity policy and therefore far more contentious and conflicted.

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This Survey is like all the rest committed by Kirklees Council, completed by those of us who care and totally ignored by the powers that be as they are the ones who are destroying our Heritage and Culture!

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Kirklees has been poor in the last few years in articulating its vision in this area - if they are to step up their action then communication and collaboration needs to be vastly improved, there has been a great deal of bad press over recent years - bulidings at risk, the Castle Hill saga, closure of Red House and Dewsbury Museums, veiled threats to sell high value collection items from the art gallery and many buildings at risk issues which has impacted on collaboration and coordination with the third sector. There will need to be some recognition of this - some humility and some stronger political support, ideally across parties if public trust is to be regained.

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Heritage buildings/areas must be actively promoted to the wider world as a 'destination', backed up with funding where appropriate. If people have a reason to 'have a day out' or a 'weekend away', where do they go? Not generally Huddersfield or areas surrounding it. Make it a reason to visit, and folks will come. Also, use some of the upper floors of heritage buildings as accommodation - rentals for locals. If people live in town centres, the vibrancy is lifted: example is York. Thank you.

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Police were on streets last couple of century's that's heritage and should be restored

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Translate

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Please see previous comments. Essentially how will this happen on the ground.

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Please make this more public so people can come forward with their stories and history of the town, i think the people of Dewsbury don't know about this

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Again, it's all show and no real substance! What are you actually going to DO?

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As previously stated.

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See previous comments please

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Engagement with communities? You mean funnel tax payers funds to "community groups" and "community leaders" who pay their mortgages and buy cars by setting up fake charities?

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See comments above.

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In Huddersfield - yes. Outside of Huddersfield - no, as there is little developmental aspects within the plan.

I answered this in the previous question. The plan does not provide sufficient detail to be able to judge what will change on the ground - for a resident or a visitor.

---

It is important to protect the heritage of the area by ensuring that development is not detrimental to the area. Removal of dry stone walls, ripping out of hedgerows, knocking down old buildings (whether listed or not) should be a last resort and should be avoided if at all possible. Building on land which is a valuable habitat including semi-natural ancient woodlands, unimproved grasslands (hay meadows or grassland fungi such as waxcaps), in-bye land which provides a habitat for birds such as Twite amongst others should be protected as they are an important link to our natural heritage.

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See above. Inclusivity and pace are needed.

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Our heritage started a long time ago, so tell it all

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It would be good to see more engagement through schools to get children interested and engaged.

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Too little too late.

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Just not entirely clear of the concrete actions which will be undertaken eg in respect of Caste Hill, Tolson Museum etc as stated in response to the earlier question.

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Clear commitment into what will happen and how it will be funded.

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Each site needs it's own parking

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Huddersfield library and art gallery needed improving but who's gona come and look at boring art in a old shop? We won't have any heritage left you are demolishing it bit by bit, too busy celebrating other cultures whilst letting our own disappear.

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I suppose this will be in the tourism strategy but being specific about audiences. There wasn't detail about exactly how engagement would take place (this will be in your engagement plan we presume) but you should consider the "cost" of engagement for small charities and community groups who have very little time to spare.

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Local involvement is paramount. Involvement of local heritage, historical and civic societies should help with the task A complete listing of heritage sites together with their condition must be made. It should also include Tramway & Railway sites

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I've put feedback into the first box as the form did not indicate further opportunities. I will not repeat myself.

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See answer above ... and include Indian/Asian community stories.

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Some oral history projects?

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As long as ghe words become action.

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It's all about generating interest from all areas of the public.

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As I stated above and also the fact that no one considers kirklees to be a place, people are proud of their own towns, stop the nonsense of trying to eradicate them and merge them into a geographically none existent entity

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Renovate and repair what we have as existing museums rather than reinvent the wheel

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You are destroying our Heritage by demolishing buildings huddersfield,closing them down all regions of "kirklees" or repurposing them incorrectly,huddersfield

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Only the larger communities in the south if kirklees are listened to and consulted.North Kirklees is the poor cousin that gets ignored

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Concentrate on small outlying areas not big towns

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As above. More identification and custodianship of assets is needed. More communities need to be engaged.

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Its great if you want to know about, or visit Huddersfield... Its awful if you live anywhere else or want to know about anywhere else's history.

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Whenever I see any posts or plans from Kirklees they seem to ignore the areas past and its importance to its residents.

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Again it's just words without specific actions as to how these things will be achieved

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As I mentioned in the box before, I think there should be more decentralised information/support for Kirklees Heritage, with general info (updated) about each village/main location, suggestions of places to visit and things to do in that area. This could be achieved by leaflets (distributed in local shops), outdoor panels, and maybe once a month or quarter have a "local Heritage" day, with volunteers showing/telling people face-to-face about the great things in the area.

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Like my previous answer. Few actions listed that link to peoples actual experience. Overarching and broad brush.statements

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What a waste of money when the local towns like Cleckheaton & Heckmondwike are looking run down & the roads in North Kirklees are in need of major repairs

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I don't know what the actions are. What will happen to Tolson, Red House and Crow Nest? How, in challenging economic services will you try to preserve threatened buildings. Many building are not suited to modern uses. What will you do to support organisations like Discover Huddersfield who are doing excellent work in raising awareness of our heritage. What are the unique heritage stories of Kirklees? Textiles are common to much of the north. What about engineering pioneers like Hopkinsons valves, Holset turbines, ICI? Our radical history - Luddites, Richard Oastler and Labour roots ? It felt too broad and lacking measurable outcomes



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Our Group engages regularly with 30 to 40 members. We know that schools are looking for a space to study their Local Heritage and many people are keen to help – either as volunteers or to pass on their knowledge of the past. Engagement, Communication via local Facebook sites, such as Old Cleckheaton, is particularly good in our area. We could be part of a Kirklees wide network of Community Heritage Hubs. Again I need to beg that we are listened to in our request for a space in our Local Town Hall. The Town Hall was built to honour Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and we had hoped to honour our Late Queen's Platinum Jubilee with this heritage space. The Town Hall was built by the people of the town and there is so much heritage to display and collect for people of all ages.

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It is imperative that the local authority uses its powers to protect our heritage assets - please work in a joined up manner with the planning and enforcement teams to ensure heritage assets are not left to decay, be eclipsed by gaudy signage or dominated by roads/traffic (as many buildings are) and blighted by fly-tipping as many greenspaces are. It's difficult to see Kirklees as a district that celebrates its heritage when the authority that is responsible for its care allows it to become so run down! I think that third sector groups that support and enhance physical heritage as well as cultural events should be given more support to deliver engagement activities - they are good at it! Kirklees should be facilitators, not necessarily committed to doing the bulk of the 'delivery'.

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I like the reference to people's stories, and would especially like to see this for more recently-arrived migrant communities, but I would like to see more detail in the action plan about how you plan to do this.

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I think many people will engage but not everyone may have the time or may be interested at first. I think that engaging with schools in a way that will excite the children into wanting to be involved may bring their parents to meetings or displays

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We fully support the words of this Action Plan but without resources it will remain words and aspirations. The Council will need to fully support and engage all heritage groups in its area, to harness the voluntary work being done across the borough, if it is to action the "Action Plan" Many groups are composed of retired people (who keep many voluntary organisations afloat). More young people will need to be inspired and intrigued by our heritage to counteract this demographic.

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I strongly support the linkages with culture & tourism, the desire to increase the visitor economy and and the development of an online Heritage Hub. However I note there is no reference to Parish Councils in the plan and I hope there will be opportunity for Parish Councils to engage.

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Woke, cultural Marxist, diverse, nonsense

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## **7:6 Free text responses to survey** received via post

### **7:6:1 In response to the Heritage Strategy**

**Please tell us any ideas or feedback you have which you feel would help make the Heritage Strategy successful and anything you think is missing and should be included:**

- 1. We need to sort out the heritage strategy quickly before our buildings and assets deteriorate. The maintenance of existing museums/libraries is not discussed. Where is our heritage sustained? This is not made clear and waiting three years for a plan to be made seems madness. Charitable trusts are the way forward and need to be included. A heritage development team will be costly and not as effective.*
- 2. Nothing should be done until something can replace it and any planning and funding obtained. Take Castle Hill for examples – must be 20 years since the pub was pulled down and all the mess and waste of money has been. Take a look at what has been done in Barnsley, they seem to get things done.*
- 3. I think buildings should be included in HS. Denis Park would show a highlight all Heritage and its people – if only it was saved, restored and open to tell these stories. Using open spaces and our heritage buildings is important too. Red House is a great example of our heritage and could show stories in years to come. Please save all our heritage throughout Kirklees.*

### **7:6:2 In response to the Strategic Heritage Action Plan**

**Please explain your answer above and tell us any actions you feel should be included which are presently missing:**

- 1. The closure of existing museums (Tolson) and Red House and Dewsbury Park/Museum is not discussed. Why get rid of historical assets which were tourist attractions? You cannot 'improve heritage' in Kirklees that does not make sense in relation to history unless you are talking about buildings.*
- 2. To save our historic buildings and public places for future generations. These spaces are where engagement with communities will take place. (Not IT communication please!)*
- 3. [Note: No free text in Action Plan Section in this case]*