

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL – 22 OCTOBER 2014
EXECUTIVE – 4 NOVEMBER 2014

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING
AND TRANSPORT

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GUIDANCE NOTE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To seek Members agreement to publish an updated guidance note on Neighbourhood Planning.

<u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL AND EXECUTIVE: That:</u>	
(A)	the Neighbourhood Planning Guidance Note contained at Essential Reference 'B' to this report be noted.
<u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL: That:</u>	
(A)	the Neighbourhood Planning Guidance Note contained at Essential Reference 'B' to this report be agreed and published.

1.0 Background

1.1 Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Government as part of their broader package of decentralisation measures, enshrined through the Localism Act 2011. The Town and Country Planning England Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 came into force on the 6 April 2012 and prescribe both the process and role of the local planning authority in supporting neighbourhood planning. In East Herts, Town or Parish Councils are qualifying bodies able to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

- 1.2 Neighbourhood planning allows communities to create a vision and planning policies for the use and development of land within a defined geographical area. This is an opportunity for local people to be fully engaged in the future of their communities in a way that has not previously been possible.
- 1.3 In December 2011 the District Council agreed an Interim Neighbourhood Planning Guidance Note which was circulated to all town and parish councils (see Background Papers). The Interim Guidance Note was based on the Council's understanding of the processes involved in Neighbourhood Planning at the time.
- 1.4 In July 2014 The District Planning Executive Panel considered a further report on neighbourhood planning (see Background Papers) which set out the specific roles and responsibilities of the Council in accordance with the 2012 Regulations. The report also outlined the growing interest in neighbourhood planning across the district.
- 1.5 Given this growing interest it is now considered appropriate to update the Guidance Note to reflect the requirements of the 2012 Regulations and to provide up-to-date support and assistance to those communities interested in doing a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.6 A Neighbourhood Planning Member training event took place on Wednesday 8th October. The purpose of the session was to help Members better understand the neighbourhood planning process so that they can also support and advise their communities.

2.0 Report

- 2.1 A copy of the updated Guidance Note is attached at **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**. A number of amendments have been made to the original Interim Guidance Note to reflect the requirements of the Town and Country Planning England Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and to update and clarify the process and support available.
- 2.2 In particular, the updated Guidance Note:
 - Has been expanded to explain the difference between Neighbourhood Development Orders, Community Right to Build Orders and Neighbourhood Development Plans.

- It now sets out the process for applying to the Council for Neighbourhood Area designation.
- It clarifies the roles and responsibilities of all parties in accordance with the 2012 Regulations.
- It provides an update on Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environmental Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment.
- Finally up-to-date information is provided on available support.

2.3 The updated Guidance Note will be sent to all town/parish councils and will assist those already undertaking work on a Neighbourhood Plan; it will also help others decide whether or not they would be interested in developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

Interim Neighbourhood Planning Guidance Note (December 2011) (East Herts) <http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=25356>

Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (DCLG) <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/note/made>

Neighbourhood Planning Update Report (17 July 2014) <http://online.eastherts.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=151&MId=2570&Ver=4>

Contact Member: Cllr Mike Carver – Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Transport
mike.carver@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Kevin Steptoe – Head of Planning and Building Control
01992 531407
kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author: Isabelle Haddow – Planning Officer
isabelle.haddow@eastherts.gov.uk