

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 6 JANUARY 2015

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PLANNING POLICY AND  
TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR AREA DESIGNATION FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD  
PLANNING: WALKERN PARISH

WARD(S) AFFECTED: Walkern

---

**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- **To enable the consideration of an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area.**

**RECOMMENDATION FOR EXECUTIVE: that:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>the application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area, submitted by Walkern Parish Council, be supported.</b>
------------	--

1.0 Background

1.1 Walkern Parish Council (WPC) submitted an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area to the Council on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Agreement to the designation of a Neighbourhood Area is required by the Council as Local Planning Authority (LPA) before a Neighbourhood Plan can be formulated.

1.2 The application was made in the form of a letter from WPC with an attached plan setting the area to which the application relates. The letter and plan form **Essential Reference Paper B** to this report.

## 2.0 Consultation

2.1 The Council has undertaken the appropriate consultation with regard to the application submission. Following the consultation no comments have been received.

## 3.0 Considerations

3.1 Two main areas of consideration to be taken into account when determining an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area are set out in Schedule 9 of the Localism Act 2011. One of these is that the authority determining the application must have regard to the desirability of maintaining the existing boundaries of neighbourhood plan areas already designated.

3.2 No weight needs to be given to this consideration in this case as no other Neighbourhood Areas are currently designated in the Walkern parish area.

3.3 The other area of consideration is the desirability of designating the whole of the area of a parish council as the Neighbourhood Area.

3.4 In this case, the area proposed covers the entire parish area, a known and existing boundary which does not conflict with neighbouring parish boundaries.

3.5 At the current stage of the emerging District Plan it is considered suitable to bring the neighbourhood plan forward for approval.

## 4.0 Conclusion

4.1 Neighbourhood planning is now an integral part of the planning system with legislative backing through the Localism Act. The LPA is charged with determining applications for the designation of Neighbourhood Areas. In this case, designation of a parish area for neighbourhood planning purposes.

## 5.0 Implications/Consultations

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

### Background Papers

None

Contact Member: Cllr M Carver, Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Transport  
[mike.carver@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:mike.carver@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Kevin Steptoe, Head of Planning and Building Control, Ext 1407  
[kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Isabelle Haddow – Planning Officer, Planning Policy  
[isabelle.haddow@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:isabelle.haddow@eastherts.gov.uk)