

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 1 SEPTEMBER 2015

REPORT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR AREA DESIGNATION FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD  
PLANNING: MUCH HADHAM PARISH

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WARD(S) AFFECTED:      MUCH HADHAM

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

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

<b><u>RECOMMENDATION FOR EXECUTIVE:</u> that</b>	
<b>(A)</b>	<b>the application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area, submitted by Much Hadham Parish Council, be supported.</b>

1.0 Background

1.1 Much Hadham Parish Council (PC) submitted an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area to the Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015. 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 Much Hadham PC 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.

- 2.2 Comments have been received in response to the area designation application. There are no formal objections to the area designation however there are concerns in regard to the timing of producing a neighbourhood plan with an out-of-date Local Plan.
- 2.3 The comments also include the key neighbourhood planning requirements for the parish and District Council, including:
- the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) neighbourhood planning requirements;
  - conformity with Local Plans; and
  - the Strategic Environment Assessment process.
- 2.4 Comments have been received on behalf of **Hertfordshire County Council** (HCC) regarding a green waste digestion facility at The Nurseries, Green Tye. This site is a safeguarded facility under Policy 5: Safeguarding of Sites of the Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document. HCC has written to draw attention to the site that is located within the neighbourhood area and to be kept up-to date with the progression of the neighbourhood plan proposals with no objection to the area designation.
- 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 Much Hadham 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 The comments received are not considered to impact upon the decision of the neighbourhood area application. Neighbourhood plans can be developed alongside emerging Local Plans and is not considered to be detrimental to the development of the neighbourhood plan. The comments received from HCC should be taken into account whilst developing the plan, however do not affect the neighbourhood area designation decision.
- 3.6 At the current stage of the emerging District Plan it is considered suitable to bring the neighbourhood plan area designation 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

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