

## ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

### IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS

<p>Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives :</p>	<p><b>People</b> This priority focuses on enhancing the quality of life, health and wellbeing, particularly for those who are vulnerable, and delivering strong services.</p> <p><b>Place</b> This priority focuses on sustainability, the built environment and ensuring our towns and villages are safe and clean.</p> <p><b>Prosperity</b> This priority focuses on safeguarding and enhancing our unique mix of rural and urban communities, promoting sustainable, economic opportunities and delivering cost effective services.</p>
<p>Consultation:</p>	<p>In response to the draft Buntingford Community Area Neighbourhood Plan as of March 2016, EHDC has consulted the statutory consultees to identify whether an SEA/HRA is necessary. This report outlines the findings.</p>
<p>Legal:</p>	<p>It is a statutory requirement to support the preparation of neighbourhood plans and for this Council to adopt them, if supported by a referendum.</p> <p>Once adopted, neighbourhood plans will carry full statutory weight as part of the development plan for the area, and due regard must be had to them when making decisions on planning applications.</p>
<p>Financial:</p>	<p>There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, at a later stage direct costs will be incurred as the Council is required to hold an independent examination of the proposed neighbourhood plan and a referendum on the plan. Under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the costs of this examination and referendum are required to be met by the Council. The more applications the Council receives to undertake neighbourhood planning, the greater the implications of these costs to the Council.</p>

	<p>Funding from DCLG is available. As of 2016/2017 this currently amounts to £20,000 - £25,000 per neighbourhood plan (non ring-fenced) to the local authority to cover the cost of supporting the process, paying for the examination and referendum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £5,000 upon designation of a Neighbourhood Area (limited to the first five neighbourhood areas designated),</li> <li>• £20,000 upon successful completion of the examination.</li> </ul> <p>DCLG has also made up to £9,000 directly available to communities preparing neighbourhood plans via 'Locality' (the organisation which is delivering this funding – further information is available at - <a href="http://locality.org.uk/projects/building-community/">http://locality.org.uk/projects/building-community/</a>).</p>
Human Resource:	<p>There are no direct human resource implications arising from this report. However, the Localism Act 2011 places a duty to support the preparation of neighbourhood plans on local authorities through officer advice and guidance, making evidence available and organising/paying for the examination and referendum. Further consideration therefore needs to be given to adequately and appropriately resourcing this area of work in the future, to ensure that staff resources are not deflected from producing the District Plan.</p>
Risk Management:	<p>Failure to respond during this consultation period may weaken the ability of the Council to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan is effective and in accordance with the statutory requirements.</p>