

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 21 JANUARY 2014

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING
AND TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR AREA DESIGNATION FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLANNING: HERTFORD HEATH

WARD(S) AFFECTED: Hertford Heath

Purpose/Summary of Report

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

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE: That:

(A)	the application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area, submitted by Hertford Heath Parish Council, be supported.
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1.0 Background

- 1.1 Hertford Heath Parish Council submitted an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area to the Council on 2 September 2013. 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 Parish Council with an attached plan setting the area to which the application relates. The area is to cover the entirety of the parish of Hertford Heath. 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. No representations have been received in relation to the consultation process.

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 areas already designated.

3.2 There is no concern in relation to this matter as there are no other Neighbourhood Areas currently designated that are coincident with the Hertford Heath parish.

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 Again, in this case, the whole of the Parish Councils area is advanced in the designation. There are no apparent reasons why designation of any part of the Parish Councils area in isolation should be designated and therefore designation of the entirety of the parish appears appropriate.

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

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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