

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 8 JUNE 2015

REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

BISHOP'S STORTFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR SILVERLEYS AND MEADS WARDS

WARD(S) AFFECTED: BISHOP'S STORTFORD SILVERLEYS AND MEADS

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To adopt the Bishop's Stortford Neighbourhood Plan for Silverleys and Meads Wards following the Referendum.

RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL: that:

(A)	the Bishop's Stortford Neighbourhood Plan for Silverleys and Meads Wards, as detailed at Essential Reference Paper 'B' to this report, be formally 'made' and used as part of the Development Plan.
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1.0 Background

1.1 Neighbourhood Planning was introduced by the Government under the Localism Act in 2011. Bishop's Stortford Town Council started work on a Neighbourhood Plan for Silverleys and Meads Wards in 2011. The Town Council submitted a request for Neighbourhood Area Designation in July 2012 and was subsequently agreed in December 2012.

1.2 The Town Council submitted the draft Neighbourhood Plan to East Herts Council in May 2014. Following this, a six week consultation took place between June and July 2014. Following this, the Neighbourhood Plan was assessed by an Independent Examiner and was recommended to proceed to Referendum in December 2014.

1.3 The Referendum took place on 19th March 2015 with a 19.5% turnout. There was an overall 'yes' vote of 1,573 against 125 who voted 'no'. As outlined within Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the Council is able to make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting in the referendum have voted in favour of the plan being used to help decide planning applications in the area.

2.0 Report

The Referendum

2.1 The residents within the Silverleys and Meads Wards voted on the following question:

“Do you want East Hertfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Bishop’s Stortford Silverleys and Meads Wards to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

2.2 With an overall successful 'yes' vote, the Council is now able to formally adopt the Neighbourhood Plan as part of the East Herts Development Plan.

Adoption

2.3 If the Neighbourhood Plan for Silverleys and Meads Wards is adopted, it will become part of the Development Plan for East Herts District Council. Consequently, any planning applications within the Neighbourhood Area will be assessed alongside the current Local Plan 2007 policies and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

2.4 It is considered that the Bishop’s Stortford Neighbourhood Plan for Silverleys and Meads Wards (**Essential Reference Paper ‘B’**) positively contributes to the East Herts Development Management process providing a strong community vision that seeks to contribute to sustainable development.

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

[The Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) Regulations 2012](#)

[The Neighbourhood Planning \(Referendum\) Regulations 2012](#)

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