

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 16 OCTOBER 2017

REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

BISHOP'S STORTFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR ALL SAINTS, CENTRAL, SOUTH AND PART OF THORLEY, 2016-2032

WARD(S) AFFECTED: BISHOP'S STORTFORD ALL SAINTS, CENTRAL, SOUTH AND PART OF THORLEY

**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To adopt the Bishop's Stortford Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and Part of Thorley following the Referendum of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR EXECUTIVE: that Council, via the Executive, be advised that:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>the Bishop's Stortford Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and Part of Thorley wards, as detailed at Essential Reference Paper 'B' to this report, be formally 'made' and used as part of the Development Plan.</b>
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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 submitted a request for Neighbourhood Area Designation of the All Saints, Central, South and Part of Thorley wards in July 2012 which was subsequently agreed in December 2012.

1.2 The Town Council submitted the draft Neighbourhood Plan to East Herts Council in July 2016. Following this, a six week consultation took place between November and December 2016. Then the Neighbourhood Plan was assessed by an Independent Examiner in May 2017 and was recommended to proceed, subject to recommended modifications, to Referendum.

1.3 The Referendum took place on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017 with a 15.8% turnout. There was an overall ‘yes’ vote of 2,512 against 680 who voted ‘no’. As outlined within Paragraph the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, (as amended by the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017) 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 All Saints, Central, South and Part of Thorley voted on the following question:

*“Do you want East Hertfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Bishop’s Stortford All Saints, Central, South and Part of Thorley to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”*

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

### **Adoption**

2.3 If the Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and Part of Thorley 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, the policies within the emerging Draft District Plan, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and all other material planning considerations.

2.4 It is considered that the Bishop’s Stortford Neighbourhood Plan for All Saints, Central, South and Part of Thorley Wards 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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