

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 28 NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR AREA DESIGNATION FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD  
PLANNING: HUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

WARD(S) AFFECTED: HUNSDON

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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 Hunsdon Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan, submitted by Hunsdon Parish Council, be supported.</b>

1.0 Background

1.1 Hunsdon Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan submitted an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area to the Council on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Agreement to the designation of a Neighbourhood Area is required by the District 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 Hunsdon Parish Council with an attached plan setting the area to which the application relates. The letter and plan form **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** to this report.

1.3 Also related to this application is the withdrawal of a previous Neighbourhood Area Designation that covered the area included within this latest designation request. As the previous designation

has now been formally withdrawn it does not affect the considerations of the Council.

## 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 but instead the comments highlight 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.

2.3 These comments form **Essential Reference Paper 'C'** to this report.

## 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 overlap with the proposed Hunsdon Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan.

3.3 The other area of consideration is the desirability of designating the submitted area as the Neighbourhood Area.

3.4 In this case, the area proposed only covers part of the Parish of Hunsdon which includes the village of Hunsdon but excludes the area within the proposed Gilston Area (Policy GA1) development outlined within the East Herts Pre-submission District Plan. Hunsdon Parish Council wish to move forward with a

Neighbourhood Plan for Hunsdon village and because of that have excluded the area within Policy GA1 of the District Plan which is reliant upon the plan-making process.

- 3.5 Planning Practice Guidance states that where multi-parished areas are proposed, consent from the parish councils is required to undertake any neighbourhood planning activities. The area designation request (**Essential Reference Paper 'B'**) identifies there is agreement from both parishes to work together on a neighbourhood plan.
- 3.6 The comments received during the consultation highlighted a number of key requirements which the Neighbourhood Plan should have regard to. These comments have been noted and will be carried forward in the Neighbourhood Planning process as appropriate.
- 3.7 Also pertinent to these comments is that the District Council encourages Neighbourhood Plans to be developed in a positive and proactive manner in order to support the strategic objectives of the emerging District Plan. It is the District Council's role to advise and support Neighbourhood Plans as they progress.
- 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, the designation of the Hunsdon Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan area, for neighbourhood planning purposes is supported.
- 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

East Herts Pre-submission District Plan, 2016

(<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/districtplan>)

Contact Member: Linda Haysey – Leader of the Council  
[linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Kevin Steptoe – Head of Planning and Building  
Control, Ext 1407  
[kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: George Pavey – Senior Planning Officer  
[george.pavey@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:george.pavey@eastherts.gov.uk)