

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 28 NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR AREA DESIGNATION FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLANNING: HUNSDON WITH EASTWICK AND GILSTON JOINT
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

WARD(S) AFFECTED: HUNSDON

Purpose/Summary of Report

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

RECOMMENDATION FOR EXECUTIVE: that:

(A)	the application for the designation of a Hunsdon with Eastwick and Gilston Joint Neighbourhood Plan, submitted by Hunsdon and Eastwick and Gilston Parish Councils, be supported.
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1.0 Background

1.1 Hunsdon and Eastwick and Gilston Parish Councils submitted an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area to the Council on 10th 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 and Eastwick and Gilston Parish Councils 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 As the previous designation has now been formally withdrawn it does not affect the considerations of the Council.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 with Eastwick and Gilston Joint 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 covers the entirety of Gilston Parish, Eastwick Parish and that part of Hunsdon Parish which lies

within the proposed Gilston Area (Policy GA1) development outlined within the East Herts Pre-submission District Plan.

- 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 with Eastwick and Gilston Joint 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>)

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