

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR AREA DESIGNATION FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD  
PLANNING: WARE, WARE TOWN COUNCIL

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All in Ware

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

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

**RECOMMENDATION(S) FOR EXECUTIVE: That:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>the application for the designation of a Ware Neighbourhood Area, submitted by Ware Town Council, be supported.</b>
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1.0 Background

1.1 Ware Town Council submitted an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area to the Council on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018. 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 writing from Ware Town Council with an attached plan setting the area to which the application relates. The letter and plan form **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** and **Essential Reference Paper 'C'** to this report.

## 2.0 Report

### **Consultation**

- 2.1 East Herts District Council has undertaken the appropriate consultation with regard to the application submission.
- 2.2 One comment has been received in response to the area designation application. The objection was made by a member of the public and has been summarised below:
- The Ware Area Designation should include the proposed development area to the north and east of Ware.

The objections and concerns will be dealt with in the following section.

### **Considerations**

- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 No weight needs to be given to this consideration in this case as no other Neighbourhood Areas overlap with the proposed Ware Neighbourhood Area.
- 2.5 The other area of consideration is the desirability of designating the whole of the parish as the Neighbourhood Area.
- 2.6 In this case, the area proposed covers the Ware Parish excluding the part of the Parish which the District Council has identified to fulfil the land requirements for the proposed

development to the North and East of Ware (District Plan Policy WARE2).

2.7 There was an objection to the exclusion of this area of land on the basis that it should be included within the Parish or town boundary in the future anyway. Schedule 9 of the Localism Act 2011 states; a specified area must be one that consists of, or includes the whole or any part of the area of the (*Parish*) council. In this case Ware Town Council has submitted an application that consists of part of the area of a Parish and is therefore acceptable under the regulations.

2.8 The District Council encourages Neighbourhood Plans to be developed in a positive and proactive manner in order to support the strategic objectives of the District Plan. It is the District Council's role to advise and support Neighbourhood Plans as they progress.

### 3.0 Conclusion

3.1 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 Ware Neighbourhood Area, for neighbourhood planning purposes is supported.

### 4.0 Implications/Consultations

4.1 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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