

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR AREA DESIGNATION FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD  
PLANNING: STANSTEAD ABBOTTS AND ST. MARGARETS, STANSTEAD  
ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

---

WARD(S) AFFECTED: Stanstead Abbots and Great Amwell

---

**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 Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets Neighbourhood Area, submitted by Stanstead Abbots Parish Council, be supported.</b>
------------	---

1.0 Background

1.1 Stanstead Abbots Parish Council submitted an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area to the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> June 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 Stanstead Abbots 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.

## 2.0 Report

### **Consultation**

- 2.1 East Herts District Council has undertaken the appropriate consultation with regard to the application submission.
- 2.2 No comments have been received in response to the area designation application.

### **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 Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets 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 entirety of the Stanstead Abbots Parish and the St Margarets Parish, as well as part of the Great Amwell Parish known as The Folly. The reasoning behind the inclusion of The Folly is that it forms part of the settlement of Stanstead Abbots despite being in the Parish of Great Amwell.

- 2.7 Planning Practice Guidance states that where multi-parished areas are proposed, consent from the parish councils is required to undertake any neighbourhood planning activities. **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** contains signed minutes from a St Margarets Parish Council meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018, and a Great Amwell Parish Council meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, whereby the council's agreed that the area be included within the Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.8 The application also explains that Stanstead Abbots Parish Council are taking on the role of the lead body.
- 2.9 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 Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets 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

Contact Member: Cllr 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  
01992 531407  
[kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk)

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