

# East Herts Council Report

## Executive

**Date of Meeting: 11 February 2020**

**Report by: Cllr Goodeve, Executive Member for Planning and Growth**

**Report title: Request for Area Designation for Neighbourhood**

**Planning: Hertford Kingsmead Ward, Hertford Town Council**

**Ward(s) affected: Kingsmead Ward, Hertford**

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## Summary

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

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR:

**(a)The application for the designation of the Kingsmead Ward, Hertford as a Neighbourhood Area, submitted by Hertford Town Council, be supported**

### 1. Proposal

1.1 In accordance with The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the Local Planning Authority has received an application for an area to be designated as a neighbourhood area and must determine the application.

### 2.0 Background

2.1 Hertford Town Council submitted an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area to the Council on 18th October 2019. 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.

- 2.2 The application was made in writing by Hertford Town Council with an attached plan setting the area to which the application relates. The letter and plan form Appendix A and Appendix B to this report.

### **3.0 Considerations/ Reasons**

- 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 Hertford Kingsmead Neighbourhood Area.
- 3.3 The other area of consideration is the desirability of designating the whole of the ward as the Neighbourhood Area.
- 3.4 In this case, the area proposed only covers the Hertford Kingsmead Ward, a known and existing boundary which does not conflict with neighbouring ward/parish boundaries. This has been proposed by Hertford Town Council and does not preclude any further Neighbourhood Plans coming forward in other areas across the parish in the future.
- 3.5 The proposed neighbourhood area includes an area of land which is designated as an Employment Area under Policy HERT6 of the East Herts District Plan 2018. In addition, some of the proposed neighbourhood designation area includes land situated within the Green Belt.
- 3.6 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.

3.7 No specific comments were received during the consultation and it is proposed that the proposal be fully supported.

3.8

### **Conclusions**

3.9 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 Kingsmead Neighbourhood Area, for neighbourhood planning purposes is supported.

### **4.0 Options**

4.1 The Local Planning Authority must determine whether the area should be designated as a neighbourhood area in accordance with The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

### **5.0 Risks**

5.1 Having designated neighbourhood areas allow residents and businesses/organisations to have an input into land use planning as part of the statutory development plan for the area through policies in neighbourhood plans. Without neighbourhood areas, the community may have less input into the development in their area.

## **6.0 Implications/Consultations**

6.1 The Neighbourhood Plan process requires that an area designation be subject to public consultation for a period of at least 6 weeks – this was undertaken from 25 November 2019 – 10 January 2020.

### **Community Safety**

No

### **Data Protection**

No

### **Equalities**

No

### **Environmental Sustainability**

No

### **Financial**

No

### **Health and Safety**

No

### **Human Resources**

No

### **Human Rights**

No

### **Legal**

No

### **Specific Wards**

Kingsmead Ward, Hertford

## **7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material**

7.2 Appendix A: Hertford Town Council Designation Request Letter

7.2 Appendix B: Map of Kingsmead Ward

**Contact Member**

Jan Goodeve – Executive Member for Planning  
and Growth

[jan.goodeve@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:jan.goodeve@eastherts.gov.uk)

**Contact Officer**

Sara Saunders – Head of Planning and Building  
Control

Contact Tel No 01992 531656

[sara.saunders@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:sara.saunders@eastherts.gov.uk)

**Report Author**

Maya Cullen – Planning Assistant

[maya.cullen@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:maya.cullen@eastherts.gov.uk)