

East Herts Council Non-Key Decision Report

Date: 11 March 2021

Report by: Councillor Jan Goodeve – Executive Member
for Planning and Growth

Report title: Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan: Pre-
submission – Regulation 14 Consultation

Ward(s) affected: Hunsdon

Summary

- The purpose of this report is to agree the Council's response to the Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan: Pre-Submission (Regulation 14).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECISION: That:

A. Hunsdon Parish Council be advised that the District Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan Pre-submission Version and that the response at Appendix 'A' be submitted to the Parish Council for their consideration.

1.0 Proposal(s)

1.1 The purpose of this report is to agree the Council's response to the Hunsdon Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Draft (Regulation 14).

2.0 Background

2.1 Neighbourhood Planning was introduced by the Government under the Localism Act in 2011. The Town and Country Planning England Neighbourhood Planning (General)

Regulations 2012 (as amended) came into force on the 6 April 2012 and prescribe both the process, and role of the local planning authority in supporting neighbourhood planning. In East Herts, Parish or Town Councils are qualifying bodies able to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

- 2.2 East Herts Council received an application from Hunsdon Parish Council for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area on 10 August 2017. The Council's Executive formally agreed to designate the relevant part of the Hunsdon Parish as a Neighbourhood Area on 28 November 2017.

3.0 Reason

Regulation 14 Public Consultation

- 3.1 Before a plan is formally submitted to the local planning authority, Hunsdon Parish Council must carry out a pre-submission consultation and publicity in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- 3.2 A public consultation is currently being held which runs from 1 February 2021 to 22 March 2021.
- 3.3 The consultation documents are available on the Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan website at:
<https://hunsdonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/hunsdon-area-neighbourhood-plan>
- 3.4 The Neighbourhood Plan's vision has been translated into a set of objectives that focus on particular areas such as:
- Protecting and sustaining the rural environment
 - Identifying and protecting the built heritage
 - Improving transport links and reduction of goods traffic
 - Protecting and enhancing physical and natural features of the parish

3.5 East Herts District Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan. Whilst there are still a number of stages to complete before the Plan can potentially be adopted (including a further public consultation (Reg. 16), examination and referendum,) the Parish Council should be commended for their hard work to date.

3.6 **Appendix 'A'** contains the Council's response to the draft Neighbourhood Plan. **Appendix 'B'** contains a copy of the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

4.0 Options

4.1 The Council could choose not to comment on the Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan.

5.0 Risks

5.1 If the Council does not comment on the Neighbourhood Plan then the Council's view would not be taken into consideration during any re-draft of the Plan.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

6.1 The Neighbourhood Plan is currently subject to public consultation and will be subject to another as well in order to proceed.

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

All Neighbourhood Plans must be screened for environmental effects through the SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) and HRA (Habitats Regulation Assessment) process before proceeding to referendum.

Financial

No

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

No

Specific Wards

Hunsdon

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

Appendix A: East Herts Response – Schedule of Comments

Appendix B: Pre-submission Draft Hunsdon Area
Neighbourhood Plan

Contact Member

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