

East Herts Council Non-Key Decision Report

Date: 9 June 2022

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

Report title: Ware Neighbourhood Area Plan: Pre-Submission Regulation 14 Consultation

Ward(s) affected: Ware Chadwell, Ware Christchurch, Ware St. Mary's, Ware Trinity

Summary:

- This purpose of this report is to agree the Council's response to the Ware Neighbourhood Plan: Pre-Submission consultation (Regulation 14).

RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION: That:

(A) Ware Town Council be advised that the District Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Ware Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Version and that the response at 'Appendix A' be submitted to the Town Council for their consideration.

1.0 Proposal(s)

1.1 The purpose of this report is to agree the Council's response to Ware Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Draft Consultation (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 Ware Town Council for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for the parish in May 2018. The Ware Neighbourhood Area was then designated on the 11th September 2018. The designated area excludes the land included in the District Plan North and East Ware Site Allocation (Policy WARE2) because this is the focus of a separate masterplan.

3.0 Reason

- 3.1 Before a plan is formally submitted to the local planning authority, Ware Town Council must carry out a pre-submission consultation and publicity in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
- 3.2 A public consultation is currently being held, which runs from 19 April 2022 to 24 June 2022.
- 3.3 The consultation documents are available on the Ware Neighbourhood Plan website at:
<https://www.wareneighbourhoodplan.com/>
- 3.4 The Neighbourhood Plan's vision has been translated into a set of objectives that focus on particular areas such as:
- Promotion of high quality design and protection of heritage assets and local character;
 - Enhancing green spaces and the natural environment;

- Supporting a vibrant economy;
- Improving access to services and facilities;
- Ensuring connectivity through improvements sustainable transport.

3.5 The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any sites for development but presents a positive planning document that is responding to the strategic priorities in the development plan in a pragmatic way. The plan is well written, generally well-evidenced and the policies are locally specific. The conformity references below each policy are effective and help demonstrate compliance with national policy and the District Plan. However, some further work is still necessary to ensure all the policies are effective, particularly in the following areas:

- Clarity is needed around terminology used within some of the policies to provide the decision-maker with a clearer framework within which to operate;
- Clarity on the deliverability and effectiveness of some of the policies to ensure they meet the basic conditions.

3.6 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 Town Council should be commended for their hard work to date.

3.7 **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 the re-draft of the Plan.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

6.1 The Neighbourhood Plan is currently subject to public consultation. A future consultation will also take place (Regulation 16 consultation) in due course. East Herts Council will lead on the Regulation 16 consultation.

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

The Plan contains policies that aim to protect the environment.

Financial

No

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

No

Specific Wards

Ware Chadwell, Ware Christchurch, Ware St Mary's, Ware Trinity

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

Appendix A: Council's response: Schedule of Comments

Appendix B: Ware Neighbourhood Area Plan: Pre-Submission Document

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