

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Councillor Worth, Executive Member for Growth

To: Strategy Board - Tuesday, 12 September 2017
Cabinet – Tuesday, 19th September 2017

(Author: Lucy Buttery - Planning Policy Officer)

Subject Long Sutton Neighbourhood Plan area designation

Purpose: The purpose of this report is for Members to formally designate the Long Sutton Neighbourhood Plan area.

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Members consider the contents of this report and Appendix A and endorse Option 1 to designate the Long Sutton Neighbourhood Plan area as submitted.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 introduced the ability for Town and Parish Council's, along with designated Neighbourhood Forums to prepare Neighbourhood Plans to help promote growth and shape the development of their areas.
- 1.2 Neighbourhood Plans have Development Plan status, and their preparation is subject to the provisions of the Localism Act along with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, as amended.
- 1.3 One of the first key stages in the process is for the extent of the Plan area put forward by the community to be designated by the Local Planning Authority. This normally occurs before the plan can begin to be developed, and will set the area within which the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan will apply.
- 1.4 Members are advised that Long Sutton Parish Council submitted a proposal for the designation of a Neighbourhood Plan area to the Council on 27th July 2017.
- 1.5 This is the second formal application for a Neighbourhood Plan area that the Council has received under the provisions of the Localism Act.

PROPOSED LONG SUTTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

- 1.6 As indicated in paragraph 1.4 above, the Long Sutton Neighbourhood Plan area has been put forward by Long Sutton Parish Council. Members are reminded that Parish Councils are a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and, as such, their formation does not require any separate designation by the Local Planning Authority.

- 1.7 The plan area put forward includes the whole of the parish of Long Sutton (see map in Appendix A).
- 1.8 The justification provided by the parish council for choosing the proposed area has been considered. The community stated that as Long Sutton is a predominantly rural parish it is important to protect the rural setting of the town, whilst managing through the plan appropriate development in the countryside. This approach is considered suitable.
- 1.9 The 1990 Act requires the Council to consider the desirability of confirming the whole or part of a Parish as a Neighbourhood Plan area. Section 61G (7) of the 1990 Act states that Neighbourhood Plan areas must not overlap. The Neighbourhood Plan area submitted by Long Sutton Parish Council is considered appropriate as it will avert potential future issues of overlapping should a proposal be made to designate a Neighbourhood Plan area in an adjacent parish.
- 1.10 Given that the area is not principally an employment area (in planning terms), there is no indication that the area should be designated as a Business area (as set out in the 1990 Act).
- 1.11 The Council is at the final stage of producing a new single Local Plan document (in conjunction with Boston Borough Council and Lincolnshire County Council) which, once adopted, will replace the current suite of Statutory Development Plan documents. The Council has a duty to support the Neighbourhood Plan process and so will need to work alongside Long Sutton Parish Council as it moves through the most critical stage of the Local Plan process. This is due to the fact that the Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in broad conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan, which itself seeks to provide the strategic direction for growth and change in South East Lincolnshire.

PUBLICISING THE DESIGNATED PLAN AREA

- 1.12 Due to changes to the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations it is no longer a requirement for the Council to undertake consultation on a proposed Neighbourhood Plan area where the area specified in the application consists of the whole of the parish council's area.
- 1.13 However, if members endorse the proposed Neighbourhood Plan area, the Council is required by Regulation 7 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations to publicise this fact. A formal notice will be placed in the local press (the Spalding Voice), as well as on the Council's website. Members are reminded that the wider publication and consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan will be the responsibility of the Parish Council as it moves forward.

2.0 OPTIONS

2.1 There are two options open to Members, which are as follows:

- Option 1 - Cabinet considers the content of this report and confirms the Neighbourhood Plan area as submitted by Long Sutton Parish Council as set out in Appendix A of this report.
- Option 2 – Do nothing.

3.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet endorses Option 1 above. As highlighted within the report, the Neighbourhood Plan area proposed is considered to be appropriate and there are no issues that should affect the confirmation of the Plan area.

3.2 The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations require the Local Planning Authority to make a designation. As such, the alternative option to 'do nothing' would prevent the Neighbourhood Plan from moving forward.

4.0 **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

4.1 The expected benefits of confirming the Plan area is to enable the community to move forward with the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 **Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues**

5.1.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

5.2 **Constitutional & Legal**

5.2.1 The designation of Neighbourhood Plans is in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, as amended, as well as the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.

5.3 **Contracts**

5.3.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

5.4 **Corporate Priorities**

5.4.1 Confirmation of the Plan area, thereby facilitating the advancement of the Neighbourhood Plan, will help support the Council's Corporate Priority to "have pride in South Holland by supporting the district and residents to develop and thrive".

5.5 **Crime and Disorder**

5.5.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

5.6 **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights**

5.6.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

5.7 **Financial**

5.7.1 There will be a small cost to the Council for the placing of the required press notices upon confirmation of the Plan area boundary.

5.8 **Health & Wellbeing**

5.8.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

5.9 **Reputation**

5.9.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

5.10 **Risk Management**

5.10.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

5.11 **Safeguarding**

5.11.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

5.12 **Staffing**

5.12.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

5.13 **Stakeholders / Constitution / Timescales**

5.13.1 The timescale for the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan itself will be set by the community.

5.14 **Transformation Programme**

5.14.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

6.1 This report affects the ward of Long Sutton

Background papers:- None

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This report refers to a Mandatory Service

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A Submitted Long Sutton Neighbourhood Plan area boundary