

# CABINET

Thursday, 20 February 2025

## HAMBLE NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA DESIGNATION

### Report of the Senior Planning Policy Officer

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#### Recommendation

**It is recommended that Cabinet formally designates the Hamble Neighbourhood Area in accordance with the submission by Hamble Parish Council.**

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#### Summary

Neighbourhood plans were introduced by the Localism Act 2011 to allow local communities to prepare a plan for development and land use in their area. Neighbourhood plans are statutory documents that, once adopted, form part of the development plan for the area.

Hamble Parish Council submitted a request to Eastleigh Borough Council as the local planning authority to designate the Hamble Parish area as a neighbourhood area. Under the regulations, local planning authorities are required to designate areas where the applicant is the parish council, the application area consists of the whole of the parish council's area, and none of the area is already designated as a neighbourhood area. It is considered the application received meets the relevant requirements and the area should therefore be designated.

#### Statutory Powers

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Localism Act 2011

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

#### Strategic Implications

1. The recommendation will enable Hamble Parish Council to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their

local area. It therefore helps deliver on the Council's Corporate Plan 2023 – 2026 objective of 'Shaping Places – ensuring new development creates or enhances existing places which are attractive, vibrant, distinctive and safe, where we can all (residents and businesses) thrive, connect to each other and the services / facilities we need.

## **Introduction**

2. Neighbourhood plans were introduced by the Localism Act 2011 to allow local communities to prepare a plan for development and land use in their area. Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with strategic policies in the adopted local plan. They are statutory documents that, once adopted, form part of the development plan for the area.
3. Under the relevant Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, in order to start the formal process of preparing a neighbourhood plan, a parish council must apply to the local planning authority for the designation of the area their neighbourhood plan will cover.

## **Application by Hamble Parish Council**

4. In a letter dated 3 December 2024, Hamble Parish Council applied to Eastleigh Borough Council for the designation of Hamble Parish as a neighbourhood plan area. In accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, the letter was accompanied by a plan showing the area to be designated, a statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area; and a statement that the organisation or body making the area application is a relevant body, for the purposes of section 61G of the 1990 Act.
5. Hamble Parish Council justified the proposed inclusion of the whole parish as follows – *“The Parish Council considers the area to be appropriate because it defines the settlement of Hamble-le-Rice and its hinterland which must be planned for as a whole. The Borough Council recognises that parish areas are an identifiable and rational component of the local plan policies map and engages with parish councils on this basis for local planning purposes”*.
6. Once the neighbourhood area has been formally designated, the Parish Council will develop the draft plan which will be subject to several public consultations. Borough Council officers will work with Hamble Parish Council representatives to outline the nature and scope of support that can be provided to ensure their draft plan conforms with the adopted Local Plan.

## **Financial Implications**

7. There are small grants available to both Eastleigh Borough Council and Hamble Parish Council to offset some of the cost associated with bringing forward a neighbourhood plan. Eastleigh Borough Council is eligible to receive a grant of £5,000 once the neighbourhood area is designated. This grant is available for the first five neighbourhood areas designated in the borough. Hamble would be the third area designated in the borough. A further £20,000

can be claimed by the borough council once a decision statement detailing the intention to send the plan to referendum has been published.

### **Risk Assessment**

8. The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations are clear that local planning authorities must designate an area where it meets certain criteria (set out above). The application received from Hamble Parish Council meets these criteria and should therefore be approved. The key risk is the neighbourhood plan fails at examination or the subsequent referendum. Neither eventuality would be a significant barrier to the borough council bringing forward a new Local Plan.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

9. The Equality Act is not relevant to the decision in this report because it is a report dealing with internal or procedural matters only. It is therefore considered that for this decision the Equality Duty does not need to be addressed, and an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been carried out.

### **Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

10. The decision to designate the neighbourhood area will have no climate change or environmental implications.
11. Neighbourhood plans are required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan. As such, Hamble Parish Council will need to adhere to the strategic policies including 'Sustainable Development', 'Green Infrastructure' and 'Transport' in the adopted Local Plan.

### **Conclusion**

12. The application from Hamble Parish Council meets the required criteria set out in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. As such, it is requested that Cabinet approve the application and formally designate the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

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Appendices Attached: 2

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D**

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

None.