

Report to Cabinet

Subject: Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area

Date: 6th September 2012

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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report provides notice that Calverton Parish Council wish to produce a neighbourhood plan for the parish of Calverton.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Localism Act, which became law in November 2011, makes provision for neighbourhood plans to be prepared by a qualifying body. Qualifying bodies include parish councils. Neighbourhood plans are developed by the community and set out planning policies concerning the development and use of land in the neighbourhood area. Neighbourhood plans are about supporting growth and must be consistent with national planning policy and the policies in the local planning authority's Core Strategy.
- 2.2 The Borough Council made contact with the parishes during March/April 2012 asking whether they would be interested in developing a neighbourhood plan. A formal application was received from Calverton Parish Council on 3rd August 2012 requesting that they be recognised as a Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of producing a neighbourhood plan.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 Calverton Parish Council proposes to produce a neighbourhood plan for the entire Civil Parish of Calverton. The Parish consider that this area is appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area because of its historical existence as a Parish and its local distinctiveness. It is also viewed by the Parish that it is a readily identifiable community. A plan showing the extent of the Parish is attached as **Appendix A**.

- 3.2 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 state that the Borough Council need to publicise the application for a six week period on the website and in such a manner as they consider is likely to bring the area application to the attention of people who live or work in the area. The intention is to publicise the area application on the website and place an advertisement in the Evening Post and the Calverton Echo.

4. Resource Implications

- 4.1 The Borough Council must give advice or assistance to the Parish Council in connection with the making of the neighbourhood plan but this does not need to be financial support. Examples of such assistance could be support with the evidence base or carrying out consultation or specialist advice such as undertaking a sustainability appraisal of draft policy.
- 4.2 Following submission of the neighbourhood plan prepared by the community the onus switches to the local planning authority to process the neighbourhood plan to adoption. This includes an initial legal check that the draft plan complies with the regulations. Following this the local planning authority must publish the proposals, invite representations, appoint an examiner and arrange and pay for the examination. Provided the local planning authority is satisfied that the plan is sound then it needs to arrange and pay for a referendum on the plan. Regulations relating to the holding of a referendum are yet to be made.
- 4.3 The Borough Council has adequate resources to cover its contribution to this process, including the checking and consulting on the draft neighbourhood plan and commissioning the inspector and referendum.

5. Recommendation

That Cabinet note the report for information.