

Wards Affected:

Stantonbury, Campbell Park and Old Woughton, Central Milton Keynes, Newport Pagnell South, Newport Pagnell North and Hanslope, Bradwell, Wolverton, Broughton.

ITEM 3**DELEGATED DECISION****24 JUNE 2014****GREAT LINFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA APPLICATIONS**

Decision Taker: Councillor Legg (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

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Executive Summary:

In February 2013 a Neighbourhood Area was designated covering the entire Parish of Great Linford. Following an initial consultation period on their emerging Neighbourhood Plan, Great Linford Parish Council have reviewed the area which was designated and in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, have now submitted applications to designate two Neighbourhood Plan areas for the Parish of Great Linford which modify and supercede the existing designated area.

The two new proposed areas were advertised for six weeks public consultation between 19 February and 2 April 2014. One response was received and considered by the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee.

This report recommends that the two proposed Neighbourhood Areas are approved as originally submitted as a modification and replacement to the existing designation made in February 2013.

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the two Neighbourhood Area applications for the Parish of Great Linford, as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of Annex A, be approved in accordance with Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 (as amended) as a modification and replacement to the existing designation made in February 2013.

2. Issues

2.1 In February 2013, a Neighbourhood Area was designated for the Parish of Great Linford, covering the entire parish area. Following an initial review and consultation on the issues to be considered as part of the Neighbourhood Plan, Great Linford Parish Council felt that the Neighbourhood Planning process could be carried out more effectively if the Parish was divided into two distinct areas with separate plans produced for each.

2.2 Great Linford Parish Council have therefore applied to Milton Keynes Council, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, to designate two new Great Linford Neighbourhood Plan Areas which will jointly cover the entire Parish area and will supercede that which was

designated in February 2013. The two areas are shown in Annex A. The applications were made in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, which requires a Parish Council submitting an area application to include:

- a map which shows the area to be designated;
- a statement explaining why the Parish Council considers the area to be appropriate for designation; and
- confirmation that the Parish Council concerned is the relevant body for the purpose of neighbourhood planning for that area.

2.3 In accordance with Regulation 6 of those regulations, Milton Keynes Council published the area applications, and held a six week public consultation period between 19 February and 2 April 2014. The applications were advertised in the MK News, on the Council's website, and through information circulated to all Members and Town and Parish Councils.

2.4 One response was received to the two Great Linford Parish Neighbourhood Area applications. The response, from a local resident and representative of a local cycling organisation, raised concerns with the proposal to split the Parish into two Neighbourhood Areas, and made recommendations that it remain as a whole. These comments are outlined in Annex B.

2.5 The consultation response has been considered by Milton Keynes Council officers, and by Great Linford Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee. Comments from these organisations are included in Annex B to address the concerns raised in the consultation response.

2.6 Having regard to the response received and the comments made to address these points, it is therefore considered that it is appropriate to designate two Neighbourhood Plan Areas to cover the Parish area of Great Linford as proposed by the Parish Council as shown in Figures 1 and 2, Annex A. These new designations will replace the existing designation made in February 2013 and are made in accordance with Section 61G(6) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). This conclusion has been supported by Great Linford Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee.

3. **Options**

3.1 Once a Neighbourhood Area application is submitted, the 2012 Regulations require the Council to come to a view on it and publicise that decision. This report recommends that the two areas proposed by the Parish Council are approved as Neighbourhood Areas. However, if it is considered that this recommendation is not appropriate, the Neighbourhood Area applications could be refused. Great Linford Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee could then choose to submit further revised applications to Milton Keynes Council which will then be subject to further advertisement and consultation, or alternatively they may continue with a Neighbourhood Plan for the area which was designated in February 2013.

4. Implications

4.1 Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out that Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan. Neighbourhood Plans should reflect these policies and neighbourhoods should plan positively to support them. Neighbourhood Plans and Development Orders should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies. In Milton Keynes, the strategic policies are set out in the adopted Milton Keynes Local Plan and the emerging Core Strategy.

Once a Neighbourhood Plan has successfully passed all of the stages of preparation, including an examination and referendum, it is 'adopted' by the local planning authority, forms part of the authority's Development Plan and is a material consideration when considering development proposals. In terms of the planning policy hierarchy, a Neighbourhood Plan, once adopted carries more weight than a Supplementary Planning Document.

4.2 Resources and Risk

The Localism Act and the 2012 Regulations place new duties on local planning authorities in relation to Neighbourhood Planning. These new duties have implications for staff resources as the Council has a duty to support Parish Councils wishing to undertake Neighbourhood Planning. Staff resources to support Neighbourhood Planning will come from the existing staff within the Development Plans team. Decisions on any significant resource issues for the Council as a result of officer involvement in Neighbourhood Planning will be taken separately, as necessary.

N	Capital	N	Revenue	N	Accommodation
N	IT	N	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

4.3 Carbon and Energy Management

The proposal does not impact on carbon and energy management

4.4 Legal

Neighbourhood planning is part of the Government's initiative to empower local communities to take forward planning proposals at a local level as outlined in Section 116 of the Localism Act, 2011. The Localism Act, the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and the subsequent 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations confer specific functions on local planning authorities in relation to neighbourhood planning.

At its meeting of 25 July 2012, Cabinet agreed the decisions in the Neighbourhood Planning process that would be delegated to the Cabinet

Member responsible for Strategic Planning. This scheme of delegation included the decision of whether to accept and designate a Neighbourhood Area, as is recommended in this report.

4.5 Other Implications

Stakeholders:

The proposed Neighbourhood Area applications has been the subject of consultation for six weeks and the views of stakeholders are reported in this report and set out in Annex B.

Consultation and involvement of stakeholders is an important part of the neighbourhood planning process and will ultimately be tested by a single issue referendum at the end of the process.

N	Equalities/Diversity	N	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
N	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

Annex A: Figure 1: Great Linford Neighbourhood Area (Plan 1)

Figure 2: Great Linford Neighbourhood Area (Plan 2)

Annex B: Table of consultation responses to the Great Linford Neighbourhood Plan 1 and Plan 2 Area applications, and Milton Keynes Council and Great Linford Parish Council comments.