

## OFFICER DECISION RECORD SHEET

**Name of decision maker:** Alex Robinson, Assistant Director for Planning

**Service Area:** Strategic Planning and Regeneration, Place

**Title of Decision:** Designation of the Great Gaddesden Neighbourhood Plan Area

**Decision made and reasons:**

**Decision:** To designate the whole area of the Great Gaddesden Parish Council as the Great Gaddesden Neighbourhood Plan Area.

**Reason:**

Under the relevant Regulations, Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) as the Local Planning Authority (LPA) must approve area applications submitted by Parish Councils where the designation is for the whole of its Parish area.

**Commissioning process:** N/A

**Tender process:** N/A

**Commercial Board:** N/A

**Reports considered:**

Submission dated 21/02/2023 by Great Gaddesden Parish Council

**Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:**

The Great Gaddesden Parish Council have engaged with local residents and officers at DBC to determine the appropriateness of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, and as a result, designating the whole Parish area as a Neighbourhood Area.

There are no requirements for publicity or formal consultation for applications submitted by parish councils for designation of the whole of its area as a neighbourhood area, as the LPA has to designate the neighbourhood area in such circumstances.

**Financial Comments:**

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) are offering funding to LPAs who support neighbourhood planning.

£5,000 can be claimed on designation of the neighbourhood plan area (as this applies for the first five areas designated). A further £20,000 is available from when the LPA issues a decision statement detailing their intention to send the plan to referendum.

The Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme for communities who choose to prepare neighbourhood plans, run by Locality on behalf of DLUHC, is currently funded until the end of March 2023. Currently, DLUHC are exploring the allocation of funds for a further year, until March 2024. The update will be publicised on <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/> when the final decision is confirmed.

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### Monitoring Officer Comments:

No comments to add to the report.

### Deputy S151 Officer Comments:

No further comments to add.

### Implications

#### Value for Money:

The process for Neighbourhood Plans is nationally set, with the aim of neighbourhood plans to add local involvement and ownership to the direction of communities and is currently supported with funding as set out above.

#### Financial:

There are no direct financial implications anticipated as a result of this report. There are also no direct implications for land or Dacorum owned assets at this stage.

#### Risk:

As the application was submitted by the Parish Council to designate the whole of the Parish area, there are no valid planning reasons to refuse the area designation.

In the longer term, the risk implications primarily relate to officer resource, as the LPA has a 'duty to support Neighbourhood Plans'. The severity of resource implications are dependent upon alignment of timetables for the Neighbourhood Plan and the Dacorum Local Plan. Timings for preparing the Neighbourhood Plan are in the control of the Parish Council, so competing priorities would need to be managed by the LPA.

The LPA will also need to consider that the development requirements in the Local Plan are reflected in the Neighbourhood Plan.

### Officer Signature:



Date: 01/03/2023