UPDATE ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 At the November 2016 Planning and Licensing Committee, Members requested an update on the progress of Neighbourhood Plans (NP) in the District.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the progress of Neighbourhood Plans in the District be noted.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

3.1 Stage the Neighbourhood Plans have reached

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighbourhood Plan</th>
<th>Neighbourhood Area designated</th>
<th>Consultation &amp; evidence gathering</th>
<th>Drafting policies</th>
<th>Reg 14 consultation</th>
<th>Reg 16 consultation</th>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>Referendum</th>
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3.2 **Althorne**

3.2.1 A database, to better understand the basic socio-economic profile and needs of the parish, has been established, including 2011 Census and Maldon District Council (MDC) (council tax banding etc.) and other data. A comprehensive infrastructure survey, including transport and utility capacity and resilience, is being prepared by the community led group ACT, who authored the Parish Plan and Village Design Statement.

3.2.2 The Steering Group are postponing drafting a neighbourhood plan for scrutiny by parishioners until the Local Development Plan (LDP) and the Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) have progressed to a point where the steering group feels it will have sufficient information to base a plan upon.

3.3 **Burnham-on-Crouch**

3.3.1 The Regulation 16 consultation runs until 15 December 2016. As part of the consultation the Town Council are arranging drop-in sessions to publicise the consultation:

- Tuesday 29 November 10am – 1pm at the Town Council Offices
- Saturday 10 December, 10am – 2pm at the Town Council offices
- Wednesday 7 December, 5 – 8pm at the Station House

3.3.2 Following the consultation, the Plan will be Examined by an Independent Examiner early in 2017.

3.3.3 On 11 November 2016 the Secretary of State recovered (Called-in) the Gladman’s planning appeal for 80 dwellings on Southminster Road, Burnham. The government is increasing the weight given to Neighbourhood Plans by recovering all planning appeals that meet the following criteria:

- The appeal involves a proposal for residential development of over 25 units, and
- It is in an area where a qualifying body has submitted a neighbourhood plan proposal to the local authority, and
- The local plan has not yet been made.

3.3.4 In this instance, the Regulation 16 consultation on the Burnham-on-Crouch Neighbourhood Plan started the week before the planning appeal inquiry re-opened. Gladmans have written to the Secretary of State, as they disagree with the appeal being called-in. The call-in itself may not change the outcome of the appeal, but it is likely to delay the decision being issued.
3.4 **Great Totham**

3.4.1 The Great Totham Neighbourhood Area was designated on 7 November 2016. The terms of reference for the Steering Group have been agreed and Neighbourhood Plan volunteers are being recruited.

3.5 **Heybridge**

3.5.1 The Heybridge Neighbourhood Area was designated in January 2016. Since then the Neighbourhood Plan working group have sent a questionnaire to all the households in Heybridge and held a public workshop (23 October 2016) where the results of the questionnaire were displayed.

3.6 **Langford and Ulting**

3.6.1 Due to difficulties encountered following the Examination, the Parish Council has notified MDC of the withdrawal of the Langford and Ulting Neighbourhood Plan. The intention is to revise key sections and resubmit the Plan. Officers are awaiting advice from the Neighbourhood Planning Team at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on whether the Parish Council can resubmit the revised plan for another Regulation 16 consultation, or whether it will need to go back to an earlier stage.

3.6.2 The Parish Council has successfully applied to DCLG for further funding to progress the Plan.

3.7 **Latchingdon**

3.7.1 The Neighbourhood Plan is not being progressed due to a lack of interest from the local community.

3.8 **Mayland**

3.8.1 A draft plan is being prepared, which contains background information from the public consultations. The next stage will be the drafting of the policies.

3.9 **Tollesbury**

3.9.1 The Tollesbury Neighbourhood Plan evidence gathering phase is progressing well. The Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) are assisting on a Housing Needs Survey. The next stage for the Neighbourhood Plan will be the drafting of the policies.

3.10 **Wickham Bishops**

3.10.1 The Wickham Bishops Neighbourhood Area was designated on 7 November 2016. The evidence gathering phase is underway, with RCCE assisting on a Housing Needs Survey.
4. **IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS**

4.1 Neighbourhood planning has the potential to support the following corporate goals which underpin the Council’s vision for the District:

- Strengthening communities to be safe, active and healthy;
- Protecting and shaping the District;
- Creating opportunities for economic growth and prosperity.

5. **IMPLICATIONS**

(i) **Impact on Customers** – Neighbourhood planning gives communities the opportunity to directly plan the future of their area.

(ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Neighbourhood planning has the potential to identify and manage local inequalities that may not have been identified by the Council.

(i) **Impact on Risk** – Neighbourhood Plans can reduce risk in the development management process by providing support for the Council in determining planning applications and defending planning appeals.

(ii) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Actions required to ensure that the timescales prescribed by Regulation are met could impact on existing Council resources, and could potentially divert resources away from other tasks and responsibilities.

(iii) **Impact on Resources (human)** – Neighbourhood plans provide opportunities for greater local involvement of residents in the planning of their area. They provide development opportunities for staff to foster partnerships between the Council and those local communities and mentor neighbourhood planning forums.

(iv) **Impact on the Environment** – Neighbourhood Plans have the potential to improve the local environment where plans are being produced.

**Background Papers:** None.

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