



**REPORT of  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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to  
**PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**  
**13 JUNE 2017**

**WOODHAM WALTER VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek the Committee's endorsement of the final Village Design Statement (VDS) for Woodham Walter to be used as a material consideration on planning decisions.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That the Woodham Walter Village Design Statement be endorsed as a material consideration on planning decisions.

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The Woodham Walter VDS was presented to the Committee at its meeting on 2 March 2017 when it was decided to authorise the Interim Head of Planning Services to agree modifications in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, the Leader of the Council and the Ward Members. Subject to that, it was agreed that the modified VDS be brought back to this Committee for endorsement.
- 3.2 Modifications had been agreed and applied to the document, and the modified VDS is attached at **APPENDIX 1** to this report.
- 3.3 The Committee is reminded that the VDS has been developed by the Woodham Walter Village Design Statement Committee and in consultation with the local community and the Local Planning Authority. The objectives of the document are listed below:
- Provide a record of local uniqueness by describing the qualities and character of the village
  - To identify the principle aspects of the natural and built environment to be respected and protected from the impact of inappropriate development.
  - To provide design guidance to householders, designers and developers so that change is managed and development is in harmony with its rural setting.
  - To achieve a higher standard of design to enhance the local environment.
  - To increase the involvement and influence of the local community in the planning process.

- To work with neighbouring authorities, partners and stakeholders to ensure cross boundary co-ordination and future planning.

3.4 These objectives are supported by an analysis of the village's evolution and the built environment. Within these chapters there is detailed guidance on features such as environment and landscape, building styles and heritage assets, threats to the village and the accompanying conservation area, materials and also design treatment of aspects such as roofs, garages and street furniture. The document likewise analyses different areas of the settlement to provide assessments which will provide a basis for guiding decisions.

3.5 Each section of the document references back to relevant policies within the emerging Local Development Plan. Blue boxes with yellow lettering highlight the relevant policy from the emerging Local Plan. Text with a yellow background relates to planning policy context, whereas a green background provides general guidance based on feedback from local residents. Any text with a blue background outlines the objectives hoped to be achieved.

## 4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The Woodham Walter Village Design Statement Committee has produced a Village Design Statement for Woodham Walter. A request has been received for the VDS to be endorsed by the Council and made available on the Council's website. The VDS is in general compliance with the District's Replacement Local Plan and the emerging LDP policies. Modifications of a minor nature have been made and the document is now available for endorsement by the Council.

## 5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

5.1 The endorsement of the Woodham Walter VDS will support the following corporate goals:

- Strengthening communities to be safe, active and healthy;
- Protecting and shaping the District.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

(i) **Impact on Customers** – Endorsement of the Woodham Walter VDS will help to provide material planning guidance for the village of Woodham Walter.

(ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None identified.

(iii) **Impact on Risk** – The content of the Woodham Walter VDS has been reviewed to ensure that there are no significant contradictions with local planning policies for the District. There is likely to be an increased demand for Officers to work with the Parish and Town Councils in the District in the future to implement community-led plans and neighbourhood planning.

- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Maldon District Council Officers have provided assistance and guidance towards the development of the Woodham Walter VDS. There is likely to be an increased demand for Officers to work with the Parish and Town Councils in the District in the future to implement community- led plans and neighbourhood planning.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None identified.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – The endorsement of the Woodham Walter VDS will support the future environmental sustainability within Woodham Walter, and will help retain the local character of the village.

Background Papers: None.

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