



Planning Committee

11 September 2014

Report from the Operational Director, Planning & Regeneration

Wards affected:
Sudbury

Sudbury Town Neighbourhood Plan

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the process which Sudbury Town Residents Association has followed to date in producing the draft Sudbury Town Neighbourhood Plan, and a summary of its content. It recommends that the draft Plan be published on 23 October 2014 and made available for comment for 6 weeks. It is also recommended that it be submitted for examination subject to Full Council approval.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Planning Policy Committee recommend to Cabinet that the draft Sudbury Town Neighbourhood Plan be agreed for publication and public consultation from 23 October 2014 for 6 weeks, and recommend that Full Council agree that the draft Plan be submitted for Examination.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Neighbourhood Planning was introduced through the Localism Act 2011. It enables communities to develop planning policies that will become part of the planning framework for their area. Neighbourhood planning is delivered by 'neighbourhood forums' for their 'neighbourhood area'. Neighbourhood forums and areas need to be agreed by local authorities, following local publicity.
- 3.2 In 2011 Sudbury Town Residents' Association successfully applied for £22,000 'frontrunner' money which they used to engage consultants (SKM Colin Buchanan) to produce an Issues Paper for the area. In August 2012 the Association applied to become a neighbourhood forum and to have Sudbury Town designated as a neighbourhood area. In line with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the Council publicised the applications for a six week consultation period ending on 19 October 2012. No comments were received. On 12 December 2012 the Council approved the designation of Sudbury Town Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area.

3.3 The forum undertook a series of consultation events and exercises between May 2012 and March 2014, as outlined in the accompanying Consultation Statement. This included consultation on an Options Report during November and December 2013, and consultation on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan for a 6 week period during January and March 2014. The consultation undertaken informed the draft Neighbourhood Plan which was formally submitted to the Council on 12 August 2014.

3.4 The vision of the Neighbourhood Plan is 'to create a greener, cleaner, safer Sudbury Town, with a High Street at the heart of the community that we can all be proud of.' The Plan contains six key planning policies. In summary these are:-

- STNP 1 seeks to promote a mix of uses within Sudbury town centre which will support the viability and attractiveness of the centre.
- STNP 2 sets design criteria for the continuation of public realm works.
- STNP 3 sets design criteria for shopfronts within the Plan area.
- STNP 4 seeks to protect open spaces and allow the reuse or redevelopment of buildings within Butlers Green and Barham Park, for uses which support the function of the green space.
- STNP 5 sets priorities for spending Neighbourhood CIL, including public realm improvements.
- STNP 6 identifies uses which will be appropriate in Sudbury town centre and support development that strengthens Vale Farm as a regional centre for sports excellence, whilst preserving open space.

3.5 In addition items that the community are seeking, but that cannot be delivered through planning policy are identified as aspirations.

3.6 Following the formal submission of the Sudbury Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents, the Council has assessed the Plan against the relevant statutory requirements. The Council is satisfied the Plan and process followed complies with the statutory requirements as set out in paragraph 6 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

3.7 To allow the Plan to progress approval is sought to publicise the Plan for a 6 week period. Following this period the Council, with agreement from the forum, must select and appoint an independent examiner to Examine the Plan.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The Council was awarded £10,000 to support the preparation of the Plan. A further payment of £5,000 is made when the Plan is publicised prior to Examination and £20,000 on successful completion of an Examination into the Plan. This is towards the cost of Examination and referendum.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 Once adopted a Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the development plan for the borough. There is a duty upon the Council to provide support and advice to communities wishing to bring forward a neighbourhood plan.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 There is a requirement for the Council to ensure that, in granting neighbourhood forum and neighbourhood area status, those applying are representative of the area covered. Sudbury Neighbourhood Forum satisfied this requirement.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

- 7.1 Staff resources will be diverted from other plan making projects to provide support and advice.

8.0 Environmental Implications

- 8.1 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion was produced in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and concluded the Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. The Basic Conditions statement outlines how the Plan will contribute to sustainable development.

9.0 Background Papers

Sudbury Town Neighbourhood Plan, Draft Final, July 2014

Sudbury Town Neighbourhood Plan: Basic Conditions Statement, July 2014

Sudbury Town Neighbourhood Plan: Consultation Statement, July 2014

Contact Officers

Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact Claire Jones, Policy & Projects, 020 8937 5301

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