

Report to	-	Cabinet
Date	-	4 th November 2013
Report of the	-	Director of Services
Subject	-	Rye Civil Parish Council's Neighbourhood Area

Recommendation: It be **RESOLVED** that: the designation of Rye Civil Parish as a Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning be confirmed.

Head of Service: Tim Hickling
Lead Cabinet Member: Councillor Paul Osborne

Introduction

1. Neighbourhood Planning is part of the Government's initiative to empower local communities to take forward planning proposals at a local level. This is outlined in Section 116 of the Localism Act.
2. Rye Town Council, as a relevant body for the purposes of designation, has submitted an application to Rother District Council to become a "Designated Area" in order to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Rye. This report outlines the consultation process which has been undertaken by the District Council in liaison with the Town Council, considers the responses received to that process and recommends designation of Rye Civil Parish as the appropriate Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of Neighbourhood Plan production.

Background

3. Councillor Osborne, along with Rother District Council officers, met the Town Council and representatives from the adjacent Parishes to discuss the implications for them of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the town. Parts of Rye's urban fringe extend into the adjacent Parishes including Playden and Rye Foreign. Rye Harbour Industrial estate is acknowledged as a key area of employment for Rye and is sited within Icklesham Parish. At the meeting the adjacent Parishes acknowledged that they didn't have the resources to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan on their own accord but were keen to contribute to the Rye Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan.
4. It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Area would be based on Rye's Civil Parish area but protocols would be put in place to coordinate between the different stakeholders on key policy areas arising from the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.
5. Subsequently the Town Council passed a resolution on the 15th July 2013 for the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan Area which included whole of the parish area to be designated formally as a Neighbourhood Area for the production of its plan.

Consideration

6. Rye Town Council has applied for designation of the whole Parish as a Neighbourhood Area under Section 61 G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). In accordance with Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the Town Council submitted as part of its application:
 - a. A map identifying the area;
 - b. Statement explaining why it is considered an appropriate neighbourhood area; and
 - c. A statement that the organisation making the application is a relevant body.
 - d. Protocols covering the liaison with adjoining parishes during the development of Rye Neighbourhood Plan

The application is attached as Appendix A to this report.

7. It follows, legislatively, there is a requirement upon this Council as the Local Planning Authority to advertise appropriately any such application "as soon as is practicable" and to bring such application to the attention of those who may be affected. All the above information was advertised on the Council's website.
8. The consultation period ran for a period of seven weeks from the 9th August 2013 to the 27th September 2013 during which 8 representations were made to the Council on the proposed area designation; 7 in support and 1 objection. The single objection, from a local resident, considers the Rye Civil Parish to be inadequate for the purposes of neighbourhood planning and should include Rye Harbour and Camber Castle as part of the formal Neighbourhood Plan Area, so there is proper consideration of employment and tourism issues.
9. It is considered appropriate protocols are in place between Rye Town Council and the adjacent parishes to reach a consensus on wider issues such as employment and tourism which are strategically important to the locality and extend beyond the scope of Rye Civil Parish. Furthermore, it is noted that the Neighbourhood Plan should generally conform to the Core Strategy and that planning officers will continue to liaise with the Town Council over the development of relevant policies and proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan and this Council's Development and Site Allocations Plan.
10. It follows that the Town Council is clearly a relevant body for the purposes of the Act and clearly has a wish to proceed with the neighbourhood planning process. With the protocols in place for partnership working on the Rye Neighbourhood Plan, the Rye Civil Parish boundary is a sensible and supportable geographic Neighbourhood Area.

Conclusion and the Next Step

11. It is accordingly recommended that the application to designate the whole of the civil parish as a Neighbourhood Area be approved.
12. Following approval of the Neighbourhood Area and as soon as possible after designating the Neighbourhood Area, Rother District Council must publish the details of the Neighbourhood Area together with a plan on the Council's

website to bring to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the Neighbourhood Area and to comply with Reg. 7 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Anthony Leonard
Executive Director of Business Operations

Risk Assessment Statement

13. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has a duty to provide advice and support to the neighbourhood planning process. Officers have already met with representatives of the Parish on several occasions to discuss their ideas at the preliminary stages and provide both supporting evidence and guidance to the parish. The District Council will need to consider how best they are able to resource the Neighbourhood Plan process in light of resource constraints.
14. There will a requirement on Rother District Council to resource and support the NP for its eventual examination and referendum. Following any adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan it will become a part of the adopted Development Plan for the area.
15. DCLG will provide grant support to Rother District Council to assist them in meeting the costs of Neighbourhood Planning. This is required to support the Planning Strategy and Environment Section in this function while concurrently progressing with the Council's Development and Site Allocations Plan (DaSA).