

RE-DESIGNATION OF MARPLE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Report of the Corporate Director (Place) and Deputy Chief Executive

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Marple Neighbourhood Forum (MNF) was designated on 1st December 2016, following the establishment of the Area on 30th June 2016. Since then the Forum has been progressing the development of a Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) for the area.
- 1.2 The MNP is to be subject to a public consultation later this Autumn, although there is an impending matter in relation to the re-designation of the Forum.

2. RE-DESIGNATION OF FORUM

- 2.1 The designation of the forum was for a period of 5 years, as required by the regulations. Consequently the current designation will expire on 1st December 2021 and the MNF has therefore submitted information to support its re-designation. There is nothing in the regulations relating to Neighbourhood Plans which specifically relates to a re-designation of an existing forum, however legal advice is that the same process should be followed as for the original designation.
- 2.2 Where there is no designated neighbourhood forum then there is no legal means by which the neighbourhood plan can be advanced or by which existing members of the forum would be able to act in relation to it. Therefore it is necessary to ensure that a forum is in place so that these matters can be addressed in the local area.
- 2.3 There is no significant change to the MNF application from its original application. The only changes relate to the members of the MNF. There is no requirement for the Forum to re-apply for the Area to be re-designated, which remains as established in June 2016.
- 2.4 The Council was required to undertake a public consultation on the application for re-designation and this consultation took place between Wednesday 18th August and Friday 1st October 2021. Seven comments were received and these are summarised below, none of which have raised any objections or introduced significant issues.

| <i>Consultee</i> | <i>Summary of issues raised</i> | <i>Action to be taken</i> |
|------------------|---|---|
| Highways England | Raises no objection to the proposal. | None |
| Natural England | Do not wish to make comment on the suitability of the proposed plan area or proposed neighbourhood planning body. | Factor into preparation of draft policies |

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|--------------------|---|---|
| | Includes information sources the neighbourhood planning body may wish to use in developing the plan together with natural environment issues and opportunities that may be of interest. | |
| Sport England | Offers advice for neighbourhood planning bodies on several topics including reference to national planning policy and Sport England's own advice in relation to playing field policy, developing planning policy for sport and Active Design guidance. Specific guidance is given on the need to use local authority evidence to help save time and resources, to ensure new or improved sporting facilities are fit for purpose and to highlight that new housing generates demand for sport requiring new/enhanced provision, and that new development should provide opportunities for people to lead healthy lifestyles. | Factor into preparation of draft policies |
| Historic England | Information on the body's role. No comments to make on the content of the proposal at this stage. | None |
| The Coal Authority | Information on the body's role. No comments to make on the content on the designation proposed. Records indicate there are coal mining legacy features in the area at surface and shallow depth which pose a potential risk to safety and service stability. Surface coal resource is also present. Any allocations proposed in the plan should give consideration to these risks. Building over or in close proximity to mine entries should be avoided where possible, even after capping, in line the policy of the Coal Authority located on the website. | Factor into preparation of draft policies |
| Homes England | Information on the body's role. Do not wish to make any representations on the consultation, but would like to continue to engage with the Council as appropriate. | None |
| Vodafone | Email sent in error as the sender makes the assumption it is a site query and requests further details such as a location address and plan. | None |

2.5 Comments received in respect of matters that are of relevance to the Neighbourhood Plan will be taken into account in the preparation of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Although not directly related to the re-designation application, the MNF has advised the Council that it will be publicising a draft Neighbourhood Plan for consultation which will take place in late Autumn 2021 and is likely to conclude before the end of the calendar year. At the appropriate time further information will be provided to officers and members in respect of the content of the plan and the process for consultation.

2.6 Whilst the re-designation of the MNF and consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan are separate matters, this information is being provided now by way of background, but also to highlight that in order for the forum to operate as a legal entity it will need to be re-designated after the current designation expires on 1st December.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 This application for the re-designation of Marple Neighbourhood Forum is essentially a technical exercise required by the regulations.

3.2 The Scrutiny Committee is invited to note the outcome of the consultation and to authorise the re-designation of Marple Neighbourhood Forum, allowing this to proceed for a decision at Cabinet on 2nd November 2021 and at Council on 18th November 2021.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Steve Johnson
on Tel: 0161-474-3509 or by email on steven.johnson@stockport.gov.uk