

February 2015

## Neighbourhood Planning - Update

### Note:

- 1.1 On the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015, Government published its amended Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.
- 1.2 These amendments followed the outcome of public consultation (July – September 2014) held by Department of Communities and Local Government on its proposals to amend the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.
- 1.3 Regulation 2(3) of the amendments inserts a new regulation 6A into the 2012 Regulations<sup>1</sup> to prescribe the date by which a local planning authority must determine applications for designation of a neighbourhood area. This amendment is to help speed up the process nationally and to provide clarity to the qualifying body i.e. the parish council, of the timing of the process. The Borough Council will now have to determine a valid neighbourhood area application that:
  - follows a parish boundary within 8 weeks of receiving the application
  - covers more than one local planning authority area within 20 weeks of receiving the application (even if the application area follows a parish boundary)
  - for all other neighbourhood area applications (such as neighbourhood forums) within 13 weeks of receiving the application.
- 1.4 The above timescales will commence from the publication of the neighbourhood area application by the Local Planning Authority. In addition, the minimum period for consultation on neighbourhood area applications that follow a parish boundary has now been reduced from six to four weeks in order to meet the revised timescales.
- 1.5 Regulation 2(4) of the amendments adds to the list of documents that a qualifying body must submit to a local planning authority with a proposal for a neighbourhood plan. The additional document which must be submitted is either an environmental report prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or a statement of reasons why an environmental assessment is not required.

Further information can be found as follows:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/20/regulation/2/made>

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<sup>1</sup> The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 [S. I 2012 No.637]