

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET - 30 MAY 2013

DESIGNATION OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA FOR NEWPORT

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: PLANNING SPECIALIST

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – COUNCILLOR CHARLES SMITH

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

1.1 The Localism Act introduced legislation to allow Parishes to produce a Development Plan for their neighbourhood. Newport Town Council is one of four Parish/Town Councils in the Borough currently preparing Neighbourhood Plans. Newport Town Council has delegated authority to a Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group (NNDPSG) to lead on the Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan and in line with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations has applied to Telford & Wrekin Council to designate Newport Town Council area as a Neighbourhood Area. On the basis of the information set out in this Report it is recommended that the Council support the designation as shown on the plan in Appendix A. Once the Town Council has prepared their Plan, this will be submitted to the Council to consider, and be the subject of a local examination and local referendum. If supported through these stages, the Plan would then be adopted as part of the Development Plan for the Borough.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That Cabinet support the Neighbourhood Area application by Newport Town Council and approve the designation of the area shown in Appendix A as a Neighbourhood Area

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	Business Supporting, Business Winning Council
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	Designation of the Newport Town Council area as a neighbourhood plan area will help engage all parts of the community in planning.
TARGET DELIVERY DATE	The process would commence following Cabinet approval.	
FINANCIAL/ VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	The costs associated with the introduction of Neighbourhood Plans are met by the Local Authority and funding up to a maximum of £30,000 per scheme is available from the DCLG in 2013/14 to offset the additional costs of designations, referendum and examinations. Should the examination process not be completed until the 2014/15 financial year there is a risk that DCLG funding will not be available. JAC 19/04/13
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	The Localism Act 2011 provided a framework for a new statutory regime to establish Neighbourhood Planning. The 2012 Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (SI 2012/637) (“the Regulations”) add more detail to that framework. Part 2 of the Regulations makes provision in relation to the procedure for designating a neighbourhood area, including the content of the application and what the local planning authority must do to publicise such an application. In

		considering the Newport Town Council application, the Council in its capacity of Local Planning Authority has been mindful of the provisions of the Regulations, and in the view of Legal Services any risk of successful challenge to the process on procedural grounds is minimal.
OTHER RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	The development of Neighbourhood Plans does pose some potential risks to the preparation of the Borough Plan including potential duplication or inconsistency with Borough Policy. This is being mitigated by regular Officer engagement with the Parish ensuring early discussion of any potential issues. Opportunities include a strengthening of local engagement in the planning process and in the development of Shaping Places and acceptance of development proposed in the area. A successful frontrunner plan will raise the profile of the Council locally and nationally.
IMPACT ON WARDS	Yes	Newport North, Newport South, Newport East & Newport West

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Localism Act (2011) introduced Neighbourhood Planning as a mechanism to increase local engagement in plan making. In March 2012 Telford & Wrekin Council successfully bid with Newport Town Council for the area to become one of the Government's Frontrunners in Neighbourhood Planning
- 4.2 The development of a Neighbourhood Plan involves a number of stages:
- Designation of the Neighbourhood Plan area
 - Establishing a local working/steering group
 - Identification of the issues that the Neighbourhood Plan needs to address
 - Developing the Plan's vision and objectives and proposals to meet these including a proposals map
 - Undertaking a sustainability appraisal of the Plan's proposals
 - Effective local consultation on the Plan
 - Submission of the Plan to the Council for consideration
 - Examination whereby an examiner, appointed by the Council, examines the Plan to establish if it meets all statutory obligations
 - Referendum; a yes/no vote on the local implementation of the plan
- 4.3 Telford & Wrekin Council's role in the Neighbourhood Plan process is to:
- Give assistance and advice on the content of the plan and process
 - Agree and formally designate the Neighbourhood Area
 - Check the plan is in general conformity with relevant legislation and regulations and conforms with national planning policy and the strategic policies of Telford & Wrekin Councils Development Plan
 - Arrange and pay for an independent examination
 - Arrange and pay for a referendum of the Neighbourhood Plan
 - Subject to the outcome of the previous stages, adopt the Neighbourhood Plan as part of Telford & Wrekin Councils Development Plan
- 4.4 In establishing the boundary to their Plan Newport Town Council wrote formally to neighbouring Parishes asking specifically if they had a view on the neighbourhood area and whether they wished this to be extended to include them. All responded they did not wish for the boundary to

be extended. In addition Newport Town Council wrote to The Newport & District Civic Society, Newport Chamber of Commerce, Newport 21, Newport Regeneration Partnership and Newport Parish Plan Steering Group seeking comments and to encourage their engagement in the Plan's subsequent development.

- 4.5 The proposed neighbourhood plan area for Newport reflects the boundaries of the Town Council and is shown in Appendix A. Under part 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012), Telford & Wrekin Council is required to publicise the request for designation for 6 weeks, to consider the responses received and determine whether or not to support designation.
- 4.6 A legal notice, together with the correspondence submitted by the Town Council requesting designation, were publicised via Telford & Wrekin Council's Website and the Newport Town Council newsletter. The period of consultation ended on 5th April 2013 and no representations have been submitted to the Council.
- 4.7 It is therefore recommended that Newport Town Council's request to designate the neighbourhood area is supported. No concerns with this boundary area have been raised, its correlation with the Town Council area will assist with any future referendum and it provides a good model for future neighbourhood plan proposals.
- 4.8 Subject to the neighbourhood area being approved, the Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group will continue to engage with local people and stakeholders, including Telford & Wrekin Council to develop the neighbourhood plan. The Steering Group on behalf of the Town Council will lead the development of the Plan. Members will be kept informed of this process with reports being brought to Cabinet at key stages.
- 4.9 The Council has no dedicated officer resource for neighbourhood planning but officers from the Business & Development Planning Unit offer advise on planning matters and can coordinate input from other parts of the Council to support the Town Council develop the Plan. This is important to avoid inconsistency between National/Borough Policy and service priorities and the neighbourhood plan proposals.

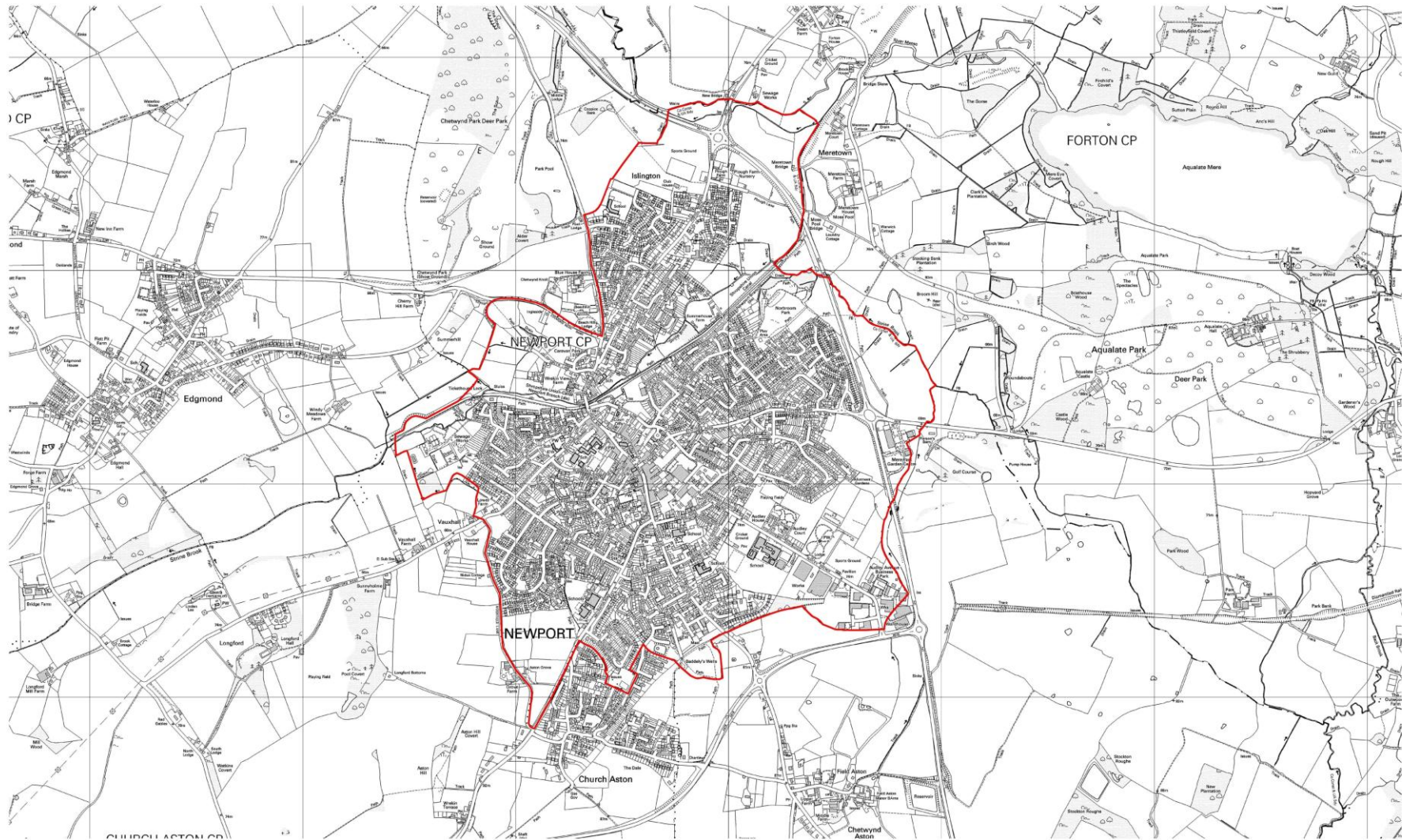
5. **IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** NA

6. **PREVIOUS MINUTES:** NA

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS:** NA

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Appendix A



<p>Borough of Telford & Wrekin Darby House Lawn Central Telford TF3 4LB</p>	<p>Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings Borough of Telford & Wrekin Licence No 100019694. Date: 2008</p>	<p>Title: Newport Town Council Boundary</p>	<p>Scale: Scale: 1:6000 Date: December 2011 Drawn By: Steve Anslow</p>	<p>N ▲</p>
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