

Report of Policy and Plans

Report to the Chief Planning Officer

Date: 18th October 2018

Subject: Designation of revised Headingley and Hyde Park Neighbourhood Areas

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Headingley and Hyde Park, Little London and Woodhouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of Main Issues

1. The Localism Act 2011 gives local communities a new 'right' to prepare a neighbourhood plan which could decide where new development takes place, what it looks like and also include other issues that are locally important. Neighbourhood Plans can only be prepared for designated neighbourhood areas.
2. Headingley Neighbourhood Forum and Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum have jointly applied to the Council to re-designate their respective neighbourhood areas to transfer a small area of Woodhouse Moor, known as 'Little Moor' from the Headingley Neighbourhood Area to the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Area.
3. The application to re-designate both neighbourhood areas was publicised between Monday 16th July and Monday 3rd September on the Council's website, the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum website and the Headingley Neighbourhood Forum website. Site Notices were placed in the area and paper copies of the application and associated documents were made available in the City Centre Hub, the Cardigan Centre, All Hallows Church, Hyde Park Book Club and Headingley Library.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that:

- The Chief Planning Officer designates the revised Headingley Neighbourhood Area (shown in Appendix 1) pursuant to Section 61G and 61I of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; and
- The Chief Planning Officer designates the revised Hyde Park Neighbourhood Area (shown in Appendix 2) pursuant to Section 61G and 61I of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

1.0 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 This report recommends the designation of the revised Headingley Neighbourhood Area and the revised Hyde Park Neighbourhood Area and covers information relevant to the designations.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The Localism Act 2011 devolved some planning powers to town and parish councils and neighbourhood forums. Neighbourhood plans are the cornerstone of this change and there are currently 35 neighbourhood areas in the Leeds area. There are 9 made neighbourhood plans in Leeds and it is anticipated that this will rise to approximately 15 over the next 6 months.
- 2.2 Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (added by the Localism Act) and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 outline the Council's responsibilities for the designation of neighbourhood areas. For applications made for designation of a neighbourhood area the Council is required to publicise and to bring the application to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the area. Once this is done the Executive Board Member for Regeneration, Transport and Planning, Community Committee Chair(s) and Ward Members are consulted.
- 2.3 The Headingley Neighbourhood Area was designated by the Council on 22nd October 2014 and the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Area was designated on 13th November 2014.
- 2.4 Headingley Neighbourhood Area was designated before Hyde Park Neighbourhood Area and the area designated was at the request of the interim forum at that time. Circumstances have now changed as Headingley Neighbourhood Forum has changed in focus and membership, providing the opportunity for to alter the neighbourhood areas. Headingley Neighbourhood Forum resolved in favour of re-designating the Neighbourhood Area at its meeting on 17th April 2018.
- 2.5 The Hyde Park and Headingley Neighbourhood Forums jointly applied for the re-designation of the Neighbourhood Areas and have both expressed a keen interest in working more closely together on common issues in the future.

3.0 Main issues

3.1 Assessing an Application for Neighbourhood Area Designation

3.1.1 The Act requires local authorities when determining neighbourhood areas to ensure that boundaries are coherent, consistent and appropriate. Relevant considerations in this respect could be:

- Any natural or man-made features (such as rivers, roads, railway lines or canals);
- Catchment areas for current or planned infrastructure;
- Development proposals and allocations;
- Environmental designations;
- Existing settlements.

4.0 The Proposed Revised Neighbourhood Areas

4.1 Headingley Neighbourhood Forum have detailed the reasons for their application to re-designate the Headingley Neighbourhood Area in their application as follows:

The boundaries of the Headingley Neighbourhood Plan were drawn up after consultation with local residents and to reflect their views and those of people who saw Headingley as their local centre. These boundaries included the small section of Woodhouse Moor known as Little Moor. The majority of Woodhouse Moor sits within the boundaries of the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Plan Area.

The Headingley Neighbourhood Forum now recognises that the whole of Woodhouse Moor sits more naturally within the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Area. There is no disadvantage to the Headingley Neighbourhood Plan in transferring this part of Woodhouse Moor to the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Area.

The Headingley Neighbourhood Forum wishes to support its close Neighbour, the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum, in the good work it is doing and feels the transferral will assist in this.

4.2 Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum have detailed the reasons for their application to re-designate the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Area in their application as follows:

Woodhouse Moor and the Hyde Park area are bound together by ties of geography and history. Hyde Park owes its name to its proximity to Woodhouse Moor, and so it's entirely appropriate that Woodhouse Moor be included in the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Area, as almost all of it was when the Area was designated in 2014.

We would now like our Neighbourhood Area boundary to be amended to include Little Moor - the one part of Woodhouse Moor that was included within the Headingley Neighbourhood Area, rather than the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Area during the original designations.

Our boundary, if this proposal is approved, would take in all of Woodhouse Moor, including Little Moor, all the rest of the Moor to the north east of Woodhouse Street, the area adjacent to the old sorting office, the Birdcage, Cinder Moor and Monument Moor.

We understand that the Headingley Neighbourhood Forum now recognises that the whole of Woodhouse Moor sits more naturally within the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Area. We are grateful for the support offered by the Headingley Neighbourhood Forum and hope we can work together more closely in the future on issues common to both sets of communities.

5.0 Consultation on the Proposed Neighbourhood Areas

5.1 Both applications were publicised and comments invited between Monday 16th July and Monday 3rd September 2018 and made available to view on the Leeds City Council website, the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum website and the Headingley Neighbourhood Forum website. Paper copies of the applications were made available at the City Centre Hub, the Cardigan Centre, Hyde Park Book Club and Headingley Library. Site notices were placed in the vicinity.

5.2 Both applications included:

- A map which identified the area to which the application relates;
- A statement explaining why this area was considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area; and
- A statement that the organisation or body making the area application was a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

5.3 Two representations were received in support of the applications to re-designate the Neighbourhood Areas. One representation was sent on behalf of the Friends of Woodhouse Moor which supports the re-designation of the neighbourhood areas. In its conclusion, the representation states *“The Friends of Woodhouse Moor see Woodhouse Moor as a unit and welcome the proposal to add the area of Little Moor to the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Plan’s designated area. The aim of the Friends to improve the entire park will be facilitated by the inclusion of Little Moor in the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Plan’s designated area.”*

5.4 The second representation received was sent on behalf of the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum, and supports the re-designation of the neighbourhood areas. The representation states: *“The Hyde Park Neighbourhood Forum is entirely happy with the proposed boundary change and wishes to thank Headingley Neighbourhood Forum for making it happen.”* Both representations are available at Appendix 3.

5.5 Headingley and Hyde Park ward members are active members of both Neighbourhood Forum Steering Groups and are supportive of the re-designation of the neighbourhood areas.

6.0 Corporate Considerations

6.1 The designation of a neighbourhood area is the first step in preparing a neighbourhood plan and is a requirement of the process. Designation of the revised neighbourhood area is required prior to submission of the draft plan for

examination. Both neighbourhood forums are approaching the formal Pre-Submission Consultation stage and the designation of the revised neighbourhood areas will help the consultation process in both areas as it will provide clarity on boundaries.

7.0 Consultation and Engagement

7.1 The application was advertised on the Council's website, both neighbourhood forum websites as well as paper copies in 5 locations and site notices in the vicinity.

8.0 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

8.1 The Government has undertaken an Equalities Impact Assessment of the Localism Act in relation to neighbourhood planning (2011). The Council views the neighbourhood planning process as an opportunity to deliver equality, diversity, cohesion and integration objectives.

9.0 Council Policies and City Priorities

9.1 Neighbourhood planning links well to all three of the Council's corporate priorities set out in the Vision for Leeds:

- Leeds will be fair, open and welcoming (neighbourhood plans must not breach, and be otherwise compatible with, EU obligations and be compatible with human rights requirements);
- Leeds' economy will be prosperous and sustainable (the making of the neighbourhood plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development);
- All Leeds' communities will be successful (the making of the neighbourhood plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for Leeds, a significant part of which is planning for growth).

Neighbourhood planning also meets the Council's value of 'Working with Communities' and "empowering people to influence decisions where they live" as set out in the Council's Best Council Plan 2018-19 and 2020-21.

10.0 Resources and value for money

10.1 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government provides £5,000 to Local Planning Authorities for the first five neighbourhood areas designated to assist with designation costs. Leeds City Council has already claimed for more than 5 neighbourhood area designations under previous rules therefore these additional area designations do not qualify. If a Neighbourhood Plan successfully passes examination, the City Council can claim £20,000 for each area once a referendum date has been set.

11.0 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

11.1 The Council will be responsible for ensuring that a neighbourhood plan has been produced in line with relevant legislation.

12.0 Risk Management

12.1 The examination and referendum process introduces risks in the neighbourhood planning system where the outcome will be dependant on the examiner's recommendations and a public vote. The Council seeks to manage this risk by working closely with designated neighbourhood areas to ensure that their neighbourhood plans complete the independent examination successfully.

13.0 Conclusions

13.1 The inclusion of 'Little Moor' in the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Area is appropriate now that it has the support of Headingley Neighbourhood Forum. This boundary change would also mean that the whole of Woodhouse Moor will be in one neighbourhood area. Overall, this will be helpful in ongoing collaboration and partnership working between the two groups and with the Council.

14.0 Recommendations

14.1. It is recommended that:

- The Chief Planning Officer designates the revised Headingley Neighbourhood Area (shown in Appendix 1) pursuant to Section 61G and 61I of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; and
- The Chief Planning Officer designates the revised Hyde Park Neighbourhood Area (shown in Appendix 2) pursuant to Section 61G and 61I of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

15.0 Background documents¹

15.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.