

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 17 May 2021

Portfolio:	Planning and Development
Subject:	Withdrawal of the Warsash Neighbourhood Forum and Area
Report of:	Director of Planning and Regeneration
Corporate Priorities:	Providing Housing Choices Protect and Enhance the Environment Strong, Safe, Inclusive and Healthy Communities Maintain and Extend Prosperity

Purpose:

To note the withdrawal of the Warsash Neighbourhood Forum and agrees to withdraw the Warsash Neighbourhood Area.

Executive summary:

On 1st July 2019 the Council formally approved an application for the Warsash Neighbourhood Forum to be established. At the same meeting an application was approved for the Warsash Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Council received notification from the Neighbourhood Forum on 19th October 2020 that they have withdrawn from the neighbourhood planning process.

This report briefly explains the process that the Warsash Neighbourhood Forum has undertaken to date in relation to Neighbourhood Planning, and the process for the withdrawal of a Neighbourhood Forum and Area.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the Executive:

- (a) notes the Warsash Neighbourhood Forum's withdrawal for the purposes of producing a Neighbourhood Plan and notes the withdrawal statement, which meets the requirements of the relevant legislation; and
- (b) agrees to withdraw the Warsash Neighbourhood Area.

Reason:

Given that the Warsash Neighbourhood Forum notified the Council that they have withdrawn from the Neighbourhood Planning process it is recommended that Council note this decision.

Cost of proposals:

The costs involved to date supporting the Warsash Neighbourhood Forum and meeting their request to withdraw from the neighbourhood planning process has been met within existing operational budgets.

Appendices: **A:** Warsash Neighbourhood Forum Withdrawal Statement

Background papers: None

Reference papers: None

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	17 May 2021
Subject:	Withdrawal of the Warsash Neighbourhood Forum and Area
Briefing by:	Director of Planning and Regeneration
Portfolio:	Planning and Development

INTRODUCTION

1. The Localism Act (2011) introduced a mechanism for local communities to produce Neighbourhood Plans for their area. A Neighbourhood Plan is a community led plan which sets out policies to guide the future use and development of land within a specified Neighbourhood Area. The Regulations allowed areas without parish or town councils to establish a Neighbourhood Forum and a Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of producing a Neighbourhood Plan.
2. There is a specific process to follow in preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The first stage in the process is designating the Neighbourhood Forum, in areas that are not parished, and designating a Neighbourhood Area.

Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area Application

3. Members will recall that in March 2019 an application was submitted to the Council to establish a Neighbourhood Forum and a Neighbourhood Area for Warsash for the purposes of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. The applications were publicised for a period of 6 weeks and there were 150 responses to the consultation. In response to the applications, the request to designate the Neighbourhood Forum and Area was approved at a meeting of the Council's Executive on 1st July 2019.

Background to the withdrawal request and relevant legislation

4. On the 19th October 2020 the Council received a notification from the Warsash Neighbourhood Forum acting Chairman to withdraw from producing a neighbourhood plan for the Warsash Neighbourhood Area. The email correspondence confirmed that a motion was agreed between Neighbourhood Forum members to withdraw from the neighbourhood planning process prior to this.
5. Regulation 12 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 stipulates that where a Neighbourhood Forum gives notice to a local planning authority that it no longer wishes to be designated as a neighbourhood forum for a neighbourhood area, the local planning authority must withdraw the designation of the neighbourhood forum.

Therefore, given that the acting Chairman of the Forum has already notified the Council of their decision to withdraw from the neighbourhood planning process it is for the Council to note this decision.

6. The legislation and national planning guidance relating to neighbourhood planning does not provide any specific guidance in relation to the withdrawal of a neighbourhood area following the notification of the withdrawal of a neighbourhood forum. However, the Council considers that it is good planning practice to withdraw the Warsash Neighbourhood Area. The withdrawal of the neighbourhood area would allow any future designated Forum to apply for a new neighbourhood area.
7. Regulation 12 stipulates that as soon as possible after withdrawing the designation of a neighbourhood forum under paragraph (1) or under section 61F(9) of the 1990 Act, a local planning authority must publish the following on their website and in such a manner as they consider is likely to bring the withdrawal of the designation to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area –
 - a) a statement setting out details of the withdrawal (“the withdrawal statement”), and
 - b) details of where and when the withdrawal statement may be inspected.
8. In line with the above regulations the Council is responsible for facilitating and formally publicising the withdrawal of the Warsash Neighbourhood Forum. The Council have produced a withdrawal statement (Appendix A) which sets out the details of the relevant legislation in terms of a voluntary withdrawal.

CONCLUSION

9. The Council’s withdrawal statement (Appendix A) meets the requirements of the relevant legislation and regulations. The report recommends that the Executive notes the Warsash Neighbourhood Forum’s request to withdraw from the neighbourhood planning process and agrees the withdrawal of the Warsash Neighbourhood Area.
10. It is recommended that the Council’s Neighbourhood Planning in Warsash webpage¹ is updated to include the outcome of the Executive meeting and a copy of the withdrawal statement is placed on the 3 notice boards in Warsash located at Shore Road Sailing Club, Warsash Road (King George 5th Recreation Ground and Victory Hall for members of the public to view.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Gayle Wootton, Head of Planning Strategy and Economic Development (Ext 4328)

¹ [Warsash Neighbourhood Plan \(fareham.gov.uk\)](http://fareham.gov.uk)