

DECISION-MAKER:	SCRUTINY PANEL A		
SUBJECT:	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS		
DATE OF DECISION:	8 APRIL 2014		
REPORT OF:	ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

BRIEF SUMMARY

For the fifth meeting of the 'Maintaining balanced neighbourhoods through planning review', the Panel will focus on increasing understanding of Neighbourhood Plans.

Appended to this report is a quick guide to Neighbourhood Plans produced by Locality and a recent Neighbourhood Plan newsletter produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) The Panel is recommended to consider the comments made by the invited representatives, and the written information presented to the Panel, and use the information provided as evidence in the review.

REASON FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable the Panel to compile a file of evidence in order to formulate findings and recommendations at the end of the review process.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. None.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. The Localism Act 2011 has an intention to devolve more decision making powers from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils. The act covers a wide range of issues relating to local public services, with a particular focus on the general power of competence, community rights and neighbourhood planning.

Neighbourhood Plans

4. Since April 2012, local communities have been able to produce Neighbourhood Plans for their local area, putting in place planning policies for the future development and growth of a neighbourhood. Neighbourhood Planning relates to the use and development of land and associated social,

economic and environmental issues. It may deal with a wide range of issues (for example housing, employment, heritage and transport) or it may focus on one or two issues that are of particular importance in a local area. These may be issues that are relevant to the whole neighbourhood or just to part of the neighbourhood.

5. Deb Appleby, Development Manager from Locality, has been invited to give a national overview of Neighbourhood Planning. Locality is a nationwide network of settlements, development trusts, social action centres and community enterprises who have been actively involved in Neighbourhood Planning for over 18 months. The Panel will be presented with information on how plans are addressing community issues in areas, particularly in urban areas similar to Southampton. There will be an opportunity for the Panel to ask questions relating to the evidence provided and copies of any presentations will be made available.
6. Dr Chris Lyons, Southampton City Council's Planning and Development Manager, will provide the Scrutiny Panel with a verbal update on the Council's approach to Neighbourhood Planning.
7. Councillor Les Harris, Southampton City Council, and Chair of the Bassett Neighbourhood Forum, will provide the Scrutiny Panel with a verbal update on the Forum's approach to Neighbourhood Planning.
8. Attached as Appendix 1 is a quick guide to Neighbourhood Plans, produced by Locality, who are the leading nationwide network of community-led organisations. The guide gives an introduction to Neighbourhood Plans, how they are produced and how they can be implemented.
9. Attached as Appendix 2 is a newsletter update (March 2014) produced by the DCLG. This particular issue gives an update on how Neighbourhood Planning is spreading across England's communities. It has recent referendum results and links to various examinations. It also has a section on inner city plans and how the involvement of students has supported areas with the production of neighbourhood plans.

10. **Our Place**

It may also be of interest to the Panel that the Council's application to the Our Place programme for initial funding of £3,000 from the DCLG was successful. Our Place encourages communities to take more control of local issues in their area. The initial grant is for support and funding for the Freemantle and Shirley area. Locality, in partnership with the Local Government Association and delivery associates such as the Community Development Foundation, are running the Our Place programme. The next phase of the project is to complete a development plan by the end of May, which will be followed by wide community engagement leading to an operational plan by 1 April 2015.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

11. None.

Property/Other

12. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

13. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Other Legal Implications:

14. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

15. None

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Locality - A Quick guide to Neighbourhood Plans
2.	DCLG – Notes on Neighbourhood Planning (March 2014)

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	Dependent upon forward plan item
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s) Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	None	
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