

HOE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM RE-DESIGNATION

Briefing Report to accompany Executive Decision | July 2022



1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report considers the application to re-designate the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum as a 'qualifying body' for a further five years for the purposes of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan. An application was submitted to Plymouth City Council under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 on 17 March 2022 by the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum.
- 1.2 The Hoe Neighbourhood Forum was originally designated on 10 July 2017. Neighbourhood forums expire after five years and so this application is to renew/re-designate the Forum which is due to expire on 10 July 2022.
- 1.3 Since establishing themselves, the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum have continued to engage positively with the Council on their neighbourhood plan and are making progress.
- 1.4 The application from the Forum is to renew their status as a neighbourhood forum only and there are no proposed amendments to the Hoe neighbourhood boundary which was originally approved on 10 July 2017.
- 1.5 The consultation period for the application ran for a period of 6 weeks and ended on the 1 June 2022. The applications were published on the www.plymouth.gov.uk website in accordance with the Regulations.
- 1.6 A Statutory Notice was placed on the Council's Neighbourhood Planning web pages and was updated to include all the relevant information.
- 1.7 10 Public Site Notices were displayed around the Hoe.
- 1.8 No letters of representation with regards to the re-designation application were received, although all three ward councillors e-mailed to support the application to re-designate.

2. CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The application to renew the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum area is considered to meet the requirements of the neighbourhood planning legislation. The forum's written constitution clearly sets out that it has been established for the express purposes of promoting or improving the social, economic or environmental well-being of the Hoe neighbourhood. It has a membership of 21 members and is actively open to individuals who live or work in the area.
- 2.2 The Hoe Neighbourhood Forum is considered to be representative of the designated Hoe Neighbourhood Area. Membership of the Forum comes from across the area and is drawn from different sections of the community, including residents and businesses.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Pursuant to Section 61F(5) and 61F(7) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 the Council should approve to re-designate the Hoe Neighbourhood Forum for the following reasons:

- a) The Forum acknowledge the importance of appropriate development and see the potential for job creation, improved housing, an enhanced tourist experience and infrastructure that development brings. The forum wants to ensure that the Hoe develops in a positive way that reflects its potential as well as its historic and public importance.
- b) The Forum has at least 21 individual members, membership includes: residents, ward councillors, other community groups, and people working in the area. The membership is drawn from different places in the neighbourhood and different sections of the community and is open to:
 - individuals who live or who have a land or property interest in the Area;
 - individuals who work in the Area;
 - community organisations that operate in any part of the Area, through their duly appointed representatives;
 - businesses, educational establishments or other corporate entities that operate in the Area, through their duly appointed representatives;
 - Ward Councillors and the MP who shall be ex-officio members.
- c) The forum has been made aware that they need to conform to the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan and our final decision is based on the Forum abiding with their constitution which states they 'acknowledge the importance of appropriate development' and will '...seek to adhere to the emerging Plymouth Plan or any of its subsequent amended versions'.
- d) The Forum has a written constitution.
- e) The Forum have confirmed that there are no proposed amendments to the Hoe neighbourhood boundary which was originally approved on 10 July 2017.