



Local Plan Committee

Item
9

7 November 2016

Report of	Head of Commercial Services	Author	Laura Chase ☎ 282473
Title	Adoption of the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan		
Wards affected	Mile End and Highwoods Wards		

The Local Plan Committee is asked to recommend that Full Council adopts the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan

1. Decision(s) Required

- 1.1 To recommend to Full Council that it makes (adopts) the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan (attached as Appendix A), following its approval at examination and referendum. Once adopted, the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan will become part of Colchester Borough Council's Local Development Plan.

2. Reasons for Decision(s)

- 2.1 To ensure the Council's planning policies provide a robust basis for decisions on future planning applications in the Borough.

3. Alternative Options

- 3.1 The alternative would be to recommend to Full Council that it does not adopt the Neighbourhood Plan. This alternative, however, would be contrary to the positive approach to Neighbourhood Plans found in the National Planning Policy Framework (Paras 184-185).

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 On 28 January 2013, Colchester Borough Council designated the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan (in accordance with Part Two of the Town and Country Planning (England), Neighbourhood Planning (General) regulations 2012). The plan area includes the whole of Myland Parish, an additional area of Braiswick and a small area which is now within Highwoods Ward (following the recent Boundary Review).
- 4.2 The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group comprising Myland Community Council councillors, Braiswick Residents Association representatives and resident representatives carried out development and consultation on the Neighbourhood

Plan. This work included a household survey completed in early 2014 which received almost 800 responses and informed the following aspects of the plan;

- Housing should be of quality design and meet all needs.
- Education should cater for all needs in step with growth.
- Employment should be supported at a local level.
- Environment should be protected and enhanced where possible.
- Social amenity should meet the community's needs.
- Sport and leisure should be available as key to health and well-being.
- Roads and transport options should be available and effective.

4.3 Further consultation included pre-submission draft consultation in May/June 2015 and final plan consultation in January/February 2016. There were 14 responses to the final consultation, the majority of which were supportive of the Plan.

4.4 Colchester Borough Council appointed an independent examiner, Dr. Angus Kennedy, to examine the Plan. The Inspector concluded that subject to minor amendments the plan satisfied all the Basic Conditions i.e. it promoted sustainable development; was in general conformity with national planning policy and guidance and with strategic policies in Colchester's adopted Local Plan; and complied with EU Regulations. The Inspector also recommended that the draft plan could proceed to Referendum.

4.5 The Referendum on the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan was held on 15 September 2016 with the following results: 1,070 in favour of the plan and 154 against, or 87.4% in favour.

4.6 Information gathered by Planning magazine indicates that 199 Neighbourhood Plans had been adopted nationwide as of September 2016. The adoption of the Myland/Braiswick and Boxted Neighbourhood will add to this total and make Colchester the first Essex authority to adopt Neighbourhood Plans.

5. Proposals

5.1 It is proposed that the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan is made (adopted) to form part of the Council's Adopted Local Plan in accordance with Section 19 of the Town and Country Planning (England), Neighbourhood Planning (General) regulations 2012).

6. Strategic Plan References

6.1 The Strategic Plan Action Plan includes a commitment to regenerating the Borough through buildings, employment, leisure and infrastructure. There are also commitments to attract investment and provide more affordable homes. The

Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan will contribute towards achieving these objectives.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 The preparation of the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan was underpinned by extensive public consultation. The consultation process was documented in a Consultation Statement submitted along with the Neighbourhood Plan document as part of the examination process. On adoption, the document will be made available on the Colchester Borough Council and Myland Community Council websites, and stakeholders will be notified, in accordance with Section 20 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

8. Publicity Considerations

- 8.1 Both Myland Community Council and Colchester Borough Council have publicised the Neighbourhood Plan on their respective websites. News of the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan will also be publicised.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1 Colchester Borough Council is financially responsible for organising the examination and referendum for Neighbourhood Plans in their areas. The Council however, can reclaim £20,000 from DCLG for all Neighbourhood Plans once a date is set for a referendum following a successful examination. These payments have been made by Central Government to Local Authorities to reflect the additional financial burdens associated with supporting Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Plan Forums prepare Neighbourhood Plans. The Government has recently announced that only the first 5 Neighbourhood Plans Area Designations in any LPA area will receive a grant £5000. This has financial implications for planning authorities like Colchester where more than 5 Neighbourhood Plans are being progressed.

10. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared for the Local Development Framework and is available to view on the Colchester Borough Council website by following this pathway from the homepage: Council and Democracy > Policies, Strategies and Performance > Equality and Diversity > Equality Impact Assessments > Commercial Services > Local Plan.
- 10.2 There are no particular Human Rights implications.

11. Community Safety Implications

- 11.1 None identified.

12. Health and Safety Implications

12.1 None identified.

13. Risk Management Implications

13.1 The adoption of the Myland and Braiswick Neighbourhood Plan will help ensure that the Council's planning policies are robust and up-to-date and help to reduce the risk of inappropriate development being permitted.

14. Disclaimer

14.1 The information in this report was, as far as is known, correct at the date of publication. Colchester Borough Council cannot accept responsibility for any error or omissions.