

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – PLANNING AND COMMUNITY

09 September 2025

OFFICER DECISION TO DESIGNATE LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH AS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

(Report prepared by Paul Woods)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT
To seek the Portfolio Holder’s concurrence with the Officer decision to designate the whole of Little Bromley Parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area in accordance with Regulation 5A of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Little Bromley Parish Council has submitted an application to designate the entire parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area. Under Regulation 5A, where a parish council submits an application for an area that consists of the whole of the parish council’s area, the local planning authority must exercise their powers to designate the specific area as a neighbourhood plan area.
RECOMMENDATION(S)
It is recommended that the Council designates the whole of Little Bromley Parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area in accordance with Regulation 5A of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES
The designation of a Neighbourhood Plan Area for Little Bromley supports the Council’s corporate priorities by empowering local communities to shape their future and take pride in their area. It contributes to improving services to residents, raising aspirations, and creating opportunities for community-led planning. The process also encourages collaboration with partners and supports sustainable development, helping to improve quality of life across the District. By enabling the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan, the Council is reinforcing its commitment to community-led planning and inclusive decision-making.

RESOURCES AND RISK

There are no significant resource implications associated with the designation itself. Refusing the application would be contrary to legislation and could expose the Council to reputational risk and potential legal challenge.

LEGAL

The Council is legally required to designate the area under Regulation 5A of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), as the application has been made by a parish council and relates to the whole parish area. The decision is consistent with statutory obligations.

A scheme of delegation, giving delegated Officers delegated authority to determine applications relating to the area to be covered by a proposed Neighbourhood Plan, was agreed by the Cabinet on 24th July 2020 ([link](#)).

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Area or Ward affected: Little Bromley

Consultation/Public Engagement: The application was submitted by the Parish Council. No further public consultation is required at the designation stage. Preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan will require ongoing public engagement in accordance with the relevant regulations.

Local Government Reorganisation: If a Neighbourhood Plan is made, it will continue to form part of the statutory Development Plan for the area beyond any future reorganisation and will support greater local control in the planning process.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Little Bromley Parish Council submitted a valid application to designate the entire parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area. The application meets the requirements set out in Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), and as it relates to the whole parish, the Council is required to approve the designation under Regulation 5A.

The designation enables the Parish Council to begin preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, which, once made, will form part of the statutory Development Plan and carry full weight in planning decisions. This supports the principles of localism and community empowerment, allowing residents to influence the future development of their area.

APPENDICES

1. Application to Designate Lt Bromley Parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area
2. Little Bromley Parish Map

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) Regulations 2012 \(as amended\)](#)

[Cabinet Report and Minutes – 24 July 2020](#)