

## Officer Non Key Executive Decision

<b>Relevant Chief Officer:</b>	Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Economic Development
<b>Report Author:</b>	Jane Saleh, Head of Planning Strategy
<b>Implementation Date of Decision:</b>	26 March 2019

### **MARTON MOSS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - DESIGNATION OF THE MARTON MOSS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA AND THE MARTON MOSS NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

#### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

- 1.1 An application to formally designate the Marton Moss Neighbourhood Area and the Marton Moss Neighbourhood Forum was submitted in January 2019 and the application has been the subject of a statutory six-week consultation with statutory consultees and local residents and businesses within the Marton Moss area.
- 1.2 The Council now need to decide whether to designate formally both the Neighbourhood Area and the Neighbourhood Forum to enable the local community to commence preparing a neighbourhood plan for Marton Moss.

#### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

- 2.1 To designate formally and publish the Marton Moss Neighbourhood Area and the Marton Moss Neighbourhood Forum.
- 2.2 To agree the response to the representations received as set out in Appendix E and make the report publically available on the Council's Website.

#### **3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

- 3.1 The Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (Policy CS26) promotes a neighbourhood planning approach for Marton Moss, to develop neighbourhood planning policy, which supports the retention and enhancement of the distinctive character of the Moss, whilst identifying what circumstances development may be acceptable. Policy CS26 also defines the boundary for the neighbourhood area.
- 3.2 In November 2017, the local community voted in favour of producing their own neighbourhood plan for Marton Moss and Executive endorsed this approach at their

meeting on the 19 February 2018.

3.3 No objections have been received to either the proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area, which is identical to the area suggested in the Core Strategy Policy CS26, or to the Forum.

3.3a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.4 Other alternative options to be considered:

3.5 To write to the Marton Moss community, explaining why the Council has not designated the forum or the neighbourhood plan area.

#### **4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool" and "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience".

#### **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 The Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027 was adopted in January 2016. Policy CS26 recognises that the Marton Moss community supports the safeguarding of the essentially green open nature of the Moss, whilst at the same time there is a view that the previously saved Policy NE2 of the 2006 Local Plan was overly restrictive in terms of permitting new development. The neighbourhood planning approach therefore provides the community with the opportunity to determine the future of the Marton Moss area.

5.2 In November 2017, the Planning Strategy Team carried out consultation with local residents and businesses within the Marton Moss area on two alternative approaches to neighbourhood planning in the area. The community voted in favour of producing their own neighbourhood plan and the Executive endorsed this approach at the 19 February 2018 meeting.

5.3 An application to designate both the neighbourhood plan area and the forum was submitted to the Council in January 2019 (refer Appendices A-D) and a six-week public consultation on the application ended on the 4 March 2019. Ten representations have been received (refer Appendix E). There have been no objections to the application.

- 5.4 The area identified as the Neighbourhood Plan Area is identical to the area identified in the Core Strategy and the Forum appears to be representative of the local community. The Constitution confirms that membership of the Forum shall be drawn from different parts of the Marton Moss Neighbourhood Area and different sections of the community, with the aim to be as representative as possible of the community (see Appendix D).
- 5.5 The application to designate the area and the forum is the first step in producing a neighbourhood plan and upon designation, the Forum would be able to apply for funding to enable a neighbourhood plan to progress. The Forum has already engaged planning consultants to assist in the process.
- 5.6 The Council's role in the neighbourhood plan process would only be to provide assistance such as sharing evidence, provide advice on planning issues and existing/emerging policies, helping with consultation and with the examination and referendum. The Planning Strategy Team has drafted a Protocol, which will be shared with the Forum for their agreement once designated.
- 5.7 Should a neighbourhood plan for Marton Moss progress to examination and adoption, the plan would form part of the statutory planning framework to support Blackpool's future regeneration and growth.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix A: Application for the designation of the Marton Moss Neighbourhood Forum and the Marton Moss Neighbourhood Area.  
Appendix B: Map of the proposed Neighbourhood Area  
Appendix C: Marton Moss Supporting Statement  
Appendix D: Marton Moss Neighbourhood Forum Constitution  
Appendix E: Schedule of Representations made in response to the consultation

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

- 6.1 The Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning approach enables the implementation of Policy CS26 'Marton Moss' of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy, which forms part of the Council's Statutory Development Plan.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

- 7.1 The Marton Moss Neighbourhood Plan will prepared by the local community. Existing staff within the Planning Strategy Team will resource the Council's statutory

duties.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 As part of plan preparation, the forum will have to undertake an Equality Assessment taking into account all relevant and appropriate equality considerations.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 The Forum will apply for external funding for the majority of the required work. Where support is required from the Council, work will be undertaken within existing budgetary provisions at this stage.

9.1 If the Area and Forum are designated within 2018/2019 financial year, there is £10,000 government funding which the Council would apply for.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Should the forum be unable to produce a neighbourhood plan, the Council would produce a neighbourhood planning style suite of policies specific to Marton Moss. This would enable and assist the delivery of Blackpool's future development requirements, which reflects the community and elected members priorities and needs and to avoid national policy being the principle basis for making decisions. The latter could lead to an increase in appeals if applications are received proposing development, which is not in line with the priorities and needs of Blackpool.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 No adverse ethical considerations.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 Consultation will be undertaken in line with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement and in accordance with the statutory requirements and regulations for neighbourhood plan preparation.

**13.0 Decision of Chief Officer**

- 13.1
1. To designate formally and publish the Marton Moss Neighbourhood Area and the Marton Moss Neighbourhood Forum.
  2. To agree the response to the representations received as set out in Appendix E and make the report publically available on the Council's Website.

## **14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer**

- 14.1 The Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (Policy CS26) promotes a neighbourhood planning approach for Marton Moss, to develop neighbourhood planning policy, which supports the retention and enhancement of the distinctive character of the Moss, whilst identifying what circumstances development may be acceptable. Policy CS26 also defines the boundary for the neighbourhood area.