

**REPORT ON:** Neighbourhood Plan Review  
**WRITTEN BY:** Cllr Verdon/Clerk  
**MEETING DATE:** 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
**AGENDA ITEMS:** 79/23

### **Background**

As reported at the last meeting, Hart District Council stated that they felt the Plan was working well at present and the Plan was being successfully used to support planning decisions and Appeals. They recommended looking at National and Local planning policies which may have been updated since the Plan was made in 2017 to see how much had changed.

The June meeting resolved:

To agree the recommendation from the Planning & Development Committee:

- i) To ask residents of the parish if there is any person with planning experience who would be able to assist in looking at the national, local and NP policies to find out how changes may have affected our NP. This could be done on Odiham People Facebook, OPC Facebook and also an article in church Parish Magazine which may be read by those who don't use FB.
- ii) Investigate consultants to find out approximate costs for light touch review.
- iii) Hold a meeting with volunteers and OPC councillors to make a start on how to review the NP.

This report updates on item ii).

OPC has allocated £2,500 in this year's budget to support a review but the work will require external funding.

Funding is commonly secured from <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/about/grant-funding/> which grants a basic grant of £10,000 and a further £8,000 for technical support under certain conditions, including when design codes are added. Both funds are currently closed to applications but professionals in the sector anticipate an announcement soon. Cllr McFarlane has written to the MP but not had a response. However, the Odiham & North Warnborough Plan already includes design principles so it is unclear whether the additional £8,000 is possible.

According to guidance [How-to-implement-monitor-and-review-your-made-neighbourhood-plan-2021.02.26.pdf \(neighbourhoodplanning.org\)](https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/2021.02.26.pdf) "there is no formula for judging when a neighbourhood plan needs to be revised. Collective consideration of information gained through monitoring will help in deciding at what point revision becomes desirable. For example, monitoring could identify inadequacies with the drafting of policies". There is a checklist in section 4 to follow when reviewing the Plan.

Three fee proposals were requested to support OPC in updating the Neighbourhood Plan:

1. One received is for a full review in the value of £16,000 plus meeting expenses.
2. A second received is for an initial health check in the value of £3,250 plus expenses with an update and review estimated between £10-15,000,
3. A third declined to quote, stating "There are two reasons for this. We are very busy currently, and this has meant our time has been quite stretched in the time period since you contacted us and your deadline for a fee proposal. Secondly, as funding for Neighbourhood Planning continues to be unconfirmed for this financial year, we are carefully assessing project management and new projects we take on over the coming months due to this ongoing uncertainty."

### **For Decision**

To consider next steps.