

# Cabinet



St Edmundsbury  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Recommendations of the West Suffolk Joint Growth Steering Group: 9 October 2017 – Response to Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan: Pre-submission Version 2017-2031</b>	
<b>Report No:</b>	<b>CAB/SE/17/053</b>	
<b>Report to and date:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	17 October 2017
<b>Portfolio holder and Chairman of the Steering Group:</b>	Councillor Alaric Pugh Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth <b>Tel:</b> 07930 460899 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:alaric.pugh@stedsbc.gov.uk">alaric.pugh@stedsbc.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Lead officers:</b>	Julie Baird Assistant Director (Growth) <b>Tel:</b> 01284 757613 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:julie.baird@westsuffolk.gov.uk">julie.baird@westsuffolk.gov.uk</a> Marie Smith Service Manager (Planning Strategy) <b>Tel:</b> 01638 719260 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:marie.smith@westsuffolk.gov.uk">marie.smith@westsuffolk.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	On 9 October 2017, the West Suffolk Joint Growth Steering Group considered the following substantive item of business:  (1) Response to Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan: Pre-submission Version 2017-2031	
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that:</b>  (1) <b>The comments contained within Report No: JGG/JT/17/004 be endorsed to form the basis of a formal response to the Pre-submission Version of the Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2031, subject to the inclusion of the further comments/typographical errors, as set out in paragraphs 1.8 and 1.9 of Report No: CAB/SE/17/053.</b> <i>Continued over.....</i>	

	<b>(2) To agree that the Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan accords with the strategic policies of the St Edmundsbury Borough Council Local Plan, in addition to meeting the requirements of the Service Level Agreement between Hargrave Parish Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council.</b>		
<b>Key Decision:</b> <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that <b>do not</b> apply.)</i>	<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<i>The decisions made as a result of this report will usually be published within <b>48 hours</b> and cannot be actioned until <b>five clear working days of the publication of the decision</b> have elapsed. This item is included on the Decisions Plan.</i>			
<b>Consultation:</b>	• See Report No: JGG/JT/17/004		
<b>Alternative option(s):</b>	• See Report No: JGG/JT/17/004		
<b>Implications:</b>			
<i>Are there any <b>financial</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>		See Report No: JGG/JT/17/004	
<i>Are there any <b>staffing</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>		See Report No: JGG/JT/17/004	
<i>Are there any <b>ICT</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>		See Report No: JGG/JT/17/004	
<i>Are there any <b>legal and/or policy</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>		See Report No: JGG/JT/17/004	
<i>Are there any <b>equality</b> implications? If yes, please give details</i>		See Report No: JGG/JT/17/004	
<b>Risk/opportunity assessment:</b>		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
<b>Risk area</b>	<b>Inherent level of risk</b> (before controls)	<b>Controls</b>	<b>Residual risk</b> (after controls)
See Report No: JGG/JT/17/004			
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>		Wickhambrook Ward	
<b>Background papers:</b> <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		None	
<b>Documents attached:</b>		<b>Appendix:</b> West Suffolk Joint Growth Steering Group: 9 October 2017 - Report No: JGG/JT/17/004 and Appendix A	

# **1. Response to Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan: Pre-Submission Version 2017-2031 (Report No: JGG/JT/17/004)**

## **1.1 Background**

1.2 A Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led framework for guiding the future development and growth of an area. Hargrave Parish Council has identified a neighbourhood area that reflects the parish boundary and this has been approved by the Council.

1.3 St Edmundsbury Borough Council has a duty to support the Parish Council in the development of their Neighbourhood Plan Council and were required to consider whether the Plan met the requirements of the Localism Act. There is a legal requirement that the proposed Neighbourhood Plan is publicised before it is submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Hargrave Parish Council are at this Pre-submission (Regulation 14) stage.

1.4 The Parish Council have asked the Council for feedback on their draft Plan by the consultation deadline of 31 October 2017.

## **1.5 Comments on the Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan**

1.6 Officers have reviewed the Plan (as set out in Appendix A to Report No: JGG/JT/17/004) and, overall, find it broadly in accordance with the strategic policies within the Local Plan and the requirements of the Localism Act and also addressed the standards set out within the Service Level Agreement between St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Hargrave Parish Council.

1.7 Paragraph 2. of Report No: JGG/JT/17/004 explained that the Neighbourhood Plan's consultation posed a series of questions and this report set out proposed responses for Members' consideration. Members were being recommended to endorse these comments which would then form the basis of a formal response to the Pre-submission version of the Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan, which would then be referred to Cabinet for approval.

1.8 In discussing the Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Group wished to commend the Parish Council on the production of this document. Having then considered the questions and responses as set out in paragraph 2. of Report No: JGG/JT/17/004, the Steering Group also wished to raise the following comments/observations for feeding back to the Parish Council:

- It was acknowledged that the Plan had been produced by the community and was designed to allow for the village to be able to expand gradually/naturally, but it was questioned as to whether some of the aspirational elements of the Plan would actually be deliverable.
- For clarity, it was considered that there could be a separate distinction from the 'aspirational' and 'policy' elements of the Plan. Members suggested that the community actions could be appended as a supplement to the Plan, rather than being embedded amongst the policy text.
- Members discussed whether the Plan was too long, therefore, possibly making it unwieldy. They suggested that perhaps concepts could be

explored more graphically rather than through text.

- The Parish Council should be informed that St Edmundsbury Borough Council is due to produce a new Local Plan in the near future. This will be a West Suffolk Local Plan, in conjunction with Forest Heath District Council. West Suffolk would welcome the Parish Council's involvement in the preparation and consultation of that Plan.
- Members recognised the need for a "vibrant countryside", allowing modest growth within the village to enable a sustainable settlement.
- Members suggested that the settlement boundary could be more ambitious, subject to ensuring consistency with the countryside protection and settlement hierarchy strategic policies of the Local Plan and St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Vision 2031, in addition to national planning policies.
- The Parish Council are asked to note that 'dormer' should be spelt generically, rather than referring to the brand 'dorma' within paragraph 10.18 of the Plan. The proposals map also contained a typographical error where it read '*Locally*' instead of '*Local Heritage Asset*'.
- Members recognise that the Plan is the result of hard work, the policies are well worded and the Parish Council Working Group should be applauded.

1.9 Within Report No: JGG/JT/17/004, the following typographical errors were also reported:

- Paragraph 2.4 - (Hargrave Housing Settlement Boundary. Do you agree with Policy HAR2 (Section 7.5)?)  
In the third sentence, the following words be reversed to read "*that accords*".
- Paragraph 2.6 (Communications Technology. Do you agree with Policy HAR4 (Section 9.4)?)  
Section 9.4 should be amended to read '*Section 7.14*'.

1.10 Recommendations

1.11 The Steering Group recommended that the comments contained within Report No: JGG/JT/17/004 be endorsed, to form the basis of a formal response to the Pre-Submission Version of the Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2031, subject to the further comments/typographical errors as set out in paragraphs 1.8 and 1.9 above.

1.12 The Cabinet is also recommended to agree that the Neighbourhood Plan is in accordance with the strategic policies of the St Edmundsbury Borough Council Local Plan, in addition to meeting the requirements of the Service Level Agreement between Hargrave Parish Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council.