

## Plan Area Statement

This application is made by the prospective Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Forum (“the Forum”).

The area requested to be designated as the Plan Area is the un-parished area of Horsham Town (“the Area”). Its boundary follows the A24 in the west, the railway lines towards Barnham and London as well the river system and associated open spaces. The area is concurrent with the Forest, Denne and Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council area which does include Horsham Town centre, a number of smaller Neighbourhood centres within the town as well as much of Horsham Town’s rivers and brooks (Arun, Boldings Brook, Horn Brook). The latter, together with the above mentioned transport corridors, act as natural boundaries towards the adjoining parishes.

The map highlighting the Plan Area and its contexts is attached to this application and is also included in the approved and published Constitution.

Discussions have been held with North Horsham Parish Council which adjoins the Area. This parish covers an area similar in size and population (21,981 ONS Census 2014) to the un-parished area (26,231 *ibid*), and is likely to have a major strategic development within their area. The Parish has confirmed that they discussed the issue of a joint plan for the combined area of North Horsham Parish and the un-parished area of Horsham Town at the meeting of the Planning, Environment & Transport Committee of 19th December 2013, and that they do not wish to produce a neighbourhood development plan for any part of the un-parished area.

The un-parished area adjoins Warnham, Broadbridge Heath, Southwater, Nuthurst, Colgate and North Horsham parishes. Warnham, Southwater and Nuthurst have all had their parish areas designated as their neighbourhood development plan areas. These do not include any of the un-parished area. Broadbridge Heath has been subject to a major strategic development and the parish council has no wish to produce a neighbourhood plan. Colgate Parish Council has not yet decided whether to proceed with a plan. It is possible that they may work together with Rusper Parish to the north west of their parish.

The Forum will be liaising with all neighbouring parishes to consolidate local aspirations as part of the neighbourhood planning process.

The Forum has a written constitution which was approved by our members at the Inaugural General Meeting on 29th March 2014. A copy of the constitution is attached with the Application for Designation as a Forum.

In summary, the Area does not include any area which is represented by a parish or indeed leaves parts of the un-parished area uncovered by the opportunities and rights the Localism Act 2011 is offering people that live and work in an area. The Area, as indicated on the map attached, has already been widely published through a range of means (open meetings, market stalls, newsletter, website, twitter, emails, newspaper articles and press releases etc.) and has been discussed with a broad range of local stakeholders and individuals. In

these discussions, running for the best part of a year now, the creation of a number of smaller neighbourhood plan areas as well as leaving parts of the un-parished area outside a larger neighbourhood plan area, including North Horsham Parish, has been explored. These options have proven to have little support within our growing membership, affiliated local groups and North Horsham parish council. Based on these conversations, we concluded that covering the whole of the un-parished area of Horsham Town allows a) for the reduction of risk of piecemeal neighbourhood planning policies, b) repetition of process and c) ineffective use of people's time and public resources. We feel the application area is therefore coherent, consistent and appropriate.

Frances Haigh  
Chair of Horsham Blueprint NF

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014