

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

2nd June 2020

AGENDA ITEM 9.4 TO REVIEW POSITION IN RELATION TO A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

1 Background

1.1 At your March meeting, members resolved to form a sub-group to take forward the Neighbourhood Plan process, in particular to pursue the following aspects:

- the potential preparation process;
- the potential cost of the process taking into account the availability of grant aid;
- the possible involvement of members of the wider community in the working group;
- the selection process in relation to the engagement of a planning consultant to aid plan preparation;
- the kinds of plan policy that might be appropriate.

2 Report

2.1 In the light of the current crisis and lockdown, whilst several members volunteered to join the proposed sub-group, the group has not met. However, in the interim, your Clerk has requested initial estimates from several planning consultants experienced in the Neighbourhood Planning process with a view to their aiding the carrying out of plan preparation in the parish. It was thought that if it were possible to select one such, in principle, then he/she could begin a dialogue with the Council, helping guide the initial steps, one of which is to apply for relevant Government grant. It is clear that the Plan process is quite complex, notwithstanding the likelihood that for Pickmere the policy content is not likely to be itself particularly complicated, compared to other similar authorities.

2.2 Item 10.1 on this agenda notes the three fee proposals received and recommends that the successful candidate be contacted with a view to an initial discussion with the Council on how to move forward. This will likely be an on-line rather than a face-to-face discussion.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That this report be noted.

Jack Steel
Clerk to Parish Council