

**Request for Lead Member
(Regeneration & Growth) Agreement
17th July 2013**

Wards affected:
Dudden Hill, Harlesden and Stonebridge

**Report Title: Neighbourhood Forum Application and
Neighbourhood Plan Area - Application for The Unity
(Church End and Roundwood)**

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report includes details relating to the request from Brent Fair Share Trust for Neighbourhood Forum status and for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area and asks for Lead Member approval of the designations applied for.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the designation of The Unity (Church End and Roundwood) Neighbourhood Area and Neighbourhood Forum as set out in the submitted applications be agreed.

3.0 Detail

Background

3.1 Neighbourhood Plans were introduced through the Localism Act 2011 to enable communities to develop planning policies that will become part of the planning framework for their area, and grant planning permission for certain types of new development.

3.2 Neighbourhood planning is delivered by 'neighbourhood forums' for their 'neighbourhood area'. Neighbourhood forums and areas need to be agreed by local authorities, following local publicity.

3.3 Brent Fair Share Trust operated as a community development agency with funding from Big Lottery from 2003 to March 2013 in the former local authority

wards of Church End and Roundwood (now Dudden Hill and Harlesden Ward). The proposed forum seeks to build on the assets and learning from Fair Share to develop a Church End and Roundwood approach to localism.

- 3.4 To date, they have held a stakeholder event on October 2012 (attended by the regeneration department), a public meeting in February 2013 (attended by local councillors) and held discussions with the council's planning department, Harlesden Town Centre Committee, Catalyst Housing and in the community with local residents, tenant representatives, young people, local businesses and Mitchell Brook School.

The Applications

- 3.5 In May 2013 the trust applied to become The Unity (Church End and Roundwood) neighbourhood forum and to designate a neighbourhood area within the wards of Dudden Hill, Harlesden and Stonebridge. A map showing the extent of the neighbourhood area is included in the appendix to this report.
- 3.6 In line with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the council publicised the applications for a six week consultation period ending on 15 July 2013. One comment was received from Cllr Krupesh Hirani supporting the proposed Neighbourhood Forum.
- 3.7 The applications have been assessed against the Regulations and meet all the requirements (see Appendix 1).

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 On designation of the Neighbourhood Area the Council can apply for £5,000 of funding to support the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and on successful completion of an Examination into the Plan a further £25,000 is available towards the cost of Examination and referendum.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Once adopted a Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the development plan for the borough. There is a duty upon the council to provide support and advice to communities wishing to bring forward a neighbourhood plan.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 There is a requirement for the council to ensure that, in granting neighbourhood forum and neighbourhood area status, those applying are representative of the area to be covered.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

- 7.1 Either additional staff resources will be necessary to support neighbourhood planning, depending upon the number of Plans that are taken forward, or staff

resources will be diverted from other plan making projects to provide support and advice.

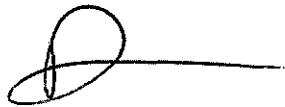
8.0 Environmental Implications

8.1 A neighbourhood plan will allow local communities to focus better on local planning issues relevant to their particular area and there is potential for measures to be proposed and implemented that would lead to improvements to the local area's environment.

Contact: Ken Hullock, Head of Planning & Transport Strategy

Andy Donald
Strategic Director of Regeneration and Growth

Agreed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'D' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Date: 10th September 2013

Appendix 1 Assessment of Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area
Application for The Unity (Church End and Roundwood)

Neighbourhood Forum

| Criteria ¹ | Analysis | Meets/fail |
|---|--|------------|
| Name of proposed neighbourhood forum | The Unity (Church End and Roundwood) Neighbourhood Forum | ✓ |
| Contact details of at least one member of the proposed neighbourhood forum | Neil Jackson The Unity Centre, 103 Church Road, London, NW10 4DE | ✓ |
| Does the proposed neighbourhood forum have a written constitution? | Yes. Attached to submission as Annex 1. | ✓ |
| Has the proposed neighbourhood forum identified a neighbourhood area to which the application relates and a map which identifies the area? | Yes. Attached to submission. | ✓ |
| Has the proposed neighbourhood forum demonstrated that the aim of the Neighbourhood Forum is to improve and promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of the defined Neighbourhood Area? | Yes. Set out in 'Aims' section of the constitution. | ✓ |
| Does the purpose of the Neighbourhood Forum reflect (in general terms) the character of the Neighbourhood Area? | Yes. Set out in the application letter. | ✓ |
| Is the membership of the Neighbourhood Forum open to those who live, work and who are elected members in the defined Neighbourhood Area? | Yes. Set out in the 'membership' section of the constitution. | ✓ |
| Has the proposed Forum secured, or at least taken reasonable steps to attempt to secure, its membership of at least 21 members who live and/or work in the proposed neighbourhood area and includes at least one elected member whose ward is covered by the proposed neighbourhood area? | Yes. Annex 4 Forum Membership identifies over 21 members of the Forum, including two councillors, eight workers and two businesses. | ✓ |
| Is membership drawn from different places in the neighbourhood area concerned and from different sections of the community in that area? | A mapping exercise of the addresses provided show that membership is drawn from different places in the neighbourhood area. | ✓ |
| Has the proposed Forum been publicised in line with the Regulations and were any representations received? | Application date 16 May 2013 was publicised on the council's website for six weeks, closing on 15 July 2013. One representation in support for the | |

¹ These criteria are taken from the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and the Localism Act 2011 Schedule 9 61F

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|-----------------|--|--|
| | forum and area was received. | |
| Decision | The Executive agrees to the designation of The Unity (Church End and Roundwood) Forum for five years from the date of this decision. | |

Neighbourhood Area

| Criteria | Analysis | Meets/fail |
|--|--|------------|
| Has the proposed Forum submitted a map which identifies the area to which the area application relates? | Yes. | ✓ |
| Does all of the proposed area fall within the London Borough of Brent? | Yes. | ✓ |
| Has any part of the proposed area already been designated as a neighbourhood area or is it the subject of a separate neighbourhood area application? | No. | ✓ |
| Is this area considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area? | Yes. | ✓ |
| Is the area proposed to be designated as a business area? | No. | ✓ |
| Has the proposed Area been publicised in line with Regulations and were any representations received? | Yes. | ✓ |
| Does the applicant organisation comply with the validation criteria for neighbourhood forums? | Yes. | ✓ |
| Decision | The Executive agrees to the designation of The Unity (Church End and Roundwood) Area (as set out in the application dated 16 May 2013) | |

