

Neighbourhood Planning decisions

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Neighbourhood Planning was introduced by the government through the localism act 2011 and is designed to enable local communities to draft planning policies at neighbourhood level that are intended to become part of the local planning framework for the area.
- 1.2. The council is responsible for decisions on Neighbourhood Planning matters and this pro forma seeks to formally agree and sign off the Neighbourhood Planning matters in the Borough of Lewisham.

2. How NP decisions are made

- 2.1. Decisions on Neighbourhood Planning matters are set out in the Lewisham Council Constitution and are made as follows.
- 2.2. With the exception of those matters listed in the table below, the following neighbourhood planning matters are delegated to the Executive Director of Place or such person as they may nominate:
 - All decisions in relation to neighbourhood planning as set out in the Localism Act 2011, and regulations made thereunder, including under any amendments made to the Act or secondary legislation in force from time to time, save those matters listed in the table below.

Table 1.

Any decision whether to decline to consider, refuse a proposal for a neighbourhood area, forum, plan, development order, or community right to build order
Any decision about the action to be taken in response to the report of an Examiner
Any matter which the Executive Director for Place is of the view ought more appropriately to be dealt with by members.

2.3. Neighbourhood planning matters shall include, but not be limited to, all decisions relating to proposals for and declaration of neighbourhood areas, neighbourhood forums, neighbourhood plans, neighbourhood development orders, community right to build orders and all other matters set out in Part 6 Localism Act 2011, amendments thereto and all relevant regulations in force from time to time.

2.4. Where in the opinion of the Executive Director for Place or the Council's Director of Planning a referral of a neighbourhood planning matter which has been reserved to Members, to them for decision, would entail a breach of the statutory timetable in which decisions relating to neighbourhood planning have to be made, the Executive Director for Place, or such person as he may nominate, shall have authority to make that decision provided that he informs the Mayor, or in her absence the Deputy Mayor, in writing of that fact prior to making the decision and the Mayor agrees

2.5. Any decision delegated to the Executive Director for Place, or such person as he may nominate, may be referred to Members for decision if either the Executive Director for Place or the Director of Planning is of the opinion that the matter ought more properly to be dealt with by Members.

2.6. If the Mayor requests an officer not to exercise delegated authority, then that officer will comply with the Mayor's request and refer the matter to Members for decision.

2.7. For the avoidance of doubt, the Mayor notes and approves that the Executive Director for Place nominates the Director of Planning to exercise all decision-making powers in respect of neighbourhood planning matters which have been delegated to them.

Information to be contained within the delegated decision report for consideration by the Director of Planning for a decision on a Neighbourhood Forum Application

1. Neighbourhood Forum Information

A) Forum Name

Sydenham Hill Ridge Neighbourhood Forum

B) Forum overview

The application submitted by this group to the Council is seeking a formal re-designation of Neighbourhood Forum status. The Forum wishes to represent a defined Neighbourhood Area which covers part of the London Borough of Lewisham and the London Borough of Southwark, a map of which can also be viewed in the application form.

The proposed forum is looking for designation approval so they can continue to work towards the production of a Neighbourhood Plan. The forum needs approval of designation to continue this process formally.

2. Neighbourhood Area Information

A) Has a neighbourhood forum submitted an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area?

No

B) If no, please confirm why

The Sydenham Hill Ridge Neighbourhood Area was designated when the group first submitted a Neighbourhood Area application in 2019. There are no proposed changes to the Neighbourhood Planning Area boundary (shown above) as part of its re-designation application. It therefore remains as the designated Neighbourhood Area and will not be subject to a further application.

Application Information

A) Type of application

Neighbourhood Area and Forum re-designation

B) Application submitted

Yes

C) Application assessment by officer

Yes

3. Consultation Information

A) Did this application undergo a consultation

Yes

B) When did this consultation start/end

25th March 2025 to 6th May 2025

C) Is the officer confident that all statutory requirements were met during this consultation?

Yes

D) Has a consultation statement been submitted with this delegated decision report?

Yes

4. Decision

A) Is the delegated officer (Executive Director of Place) happy to approve the forums application?

Yes

If the application cannot be approved please comment as to why

B) What is the next step in this process if application has not been approved?

5. Sign off

I approve the recommendations in this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Evison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Signed:

Steve Evison, Executive Director of Place