

Applications to establish Woodford Neighbourhood Area and Woodford Neighbourhood Forum under the Localism Act 2011.

On 17th October 2013 Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council determined applications from Woodford Community Council which sought to establish the Woodford Neighbourhood Area and Woodford Neighbourhood Forum under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

Further information regarding the applications, the consultation undertaken on them and the factual and policy considerations which were of relevance to their determination is available in the report to the Council which sought their decision:

<http://democracy.stockport.gov.uk/documents/s32314/Woodford.pdf>

DESIGNATION OF WOODFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

The designated area excludes two specific areas which the original application sought to include. The reasons for this are set out below.

In relation to the SEMMMS Road Scheme Corridor:

- (i) The road scheme was a key part of the wider South East Manchester Multi-Modal Strategy, with clear implications for the wider sub-region and beyond;
- (ii) The SEMMMS road schemes (and predecessor schemes dating back many years) had been given considerable policy support in both statutory development plan and Council transport policy terms. Currently this is afforded by 'saved' UDP Review policy ST2.2 ("Protection for Major Road Schemes") and Core Strategy Core Policy CS10 ("An Effective and Sustainable Transport Network");
- (iii) A planning application was expected for the road scheme imminently. Assuming that planning permission was granted, work was expected to start in late 2014, with the scheme scheduled for completion by late 2017. As such the planning issue relating to the SEMMMS road scheme would be resolved through the grant of permission and development commenced well in advance of the completion of any neighbourhood plan; and
- (iv) The road scheme proposals had been subject to a significant amount of consultation over a long period, in particular since their inclusion in the 2001 SEMMMS strategy.

In relation to the Woodford Aerodrome Opportunity Site.

The discretion as to the extent of the area to be designated is a broad one vested in the Council. The draft ('beta') DCLG Guidance (expected to be published in final form in early November 2013) notes in particular that the Council "should aim to designate the area proposed". The factual and policy context in respect of this proposed neighbourhood area is such that it is considered that the Woodford Aerodrome Opportunity Site area should be excluded for each of the following reasons:

- (i) The Aerodrome site has wider than neighbourhood significance than just the immediate locality; there will be transportation and other implications arising from the redevelopment of the airfield which have an effect and impact on a wider basis than the neighbourhood area. As such, a referendum on an emerging neighbourhood plan would be likely to be required to extend over a much wider area than the settlement of Woodford

and the proposed Neighbourhood Area. This is indicative that the inclusion of the site within the Neighbourhood Area is not appropriate;

(ii) There is already in place recently adopted and very detailed policy framework including the Woodford Aerodrome Opportunity Site Supplementary Planning Document which, prior to adoption, had been the subject of wide and extensive consultation over a wide area prior to adoption. The adopted SPD sets out the detailed economic, social and environmental objectives for the Aerodrome site arising from relevant plan policies and is intended to assist in the preparation of a planning application for an acceptable form of development and the timely delivery of that development. The existence of such recent and detailed guidance which arose following a wide ranging process of consultation also indicates that it is inappropriate for the development of the Aerodrome site to now become the subject of preparation of further policy at a neighbourhood level which may lead to confusion as to the appropriate form of development and jeopardises the timely delivery of development on the site;

(iii) Consultation by the owners of the Aerodrome Site for development has already taken place with a planning application likely to be imminent for the development of the site. It is likely therefore that the neighbourhood development plan will be overtaken by events which is likely to lead to disappointment and confusion; and

(iv) The process for a neighbourhood plan being in place would be over twelve months it seems likely that planning applications and decisions on those applications are likely to have occurred well in advance of the conclusion of the neighbourhood development plan preparation process. The investment in terms of time and money in preparation of the NDP would therefore not be timely and does not represent an expedient use of resources.

The following plans are appended to this document:

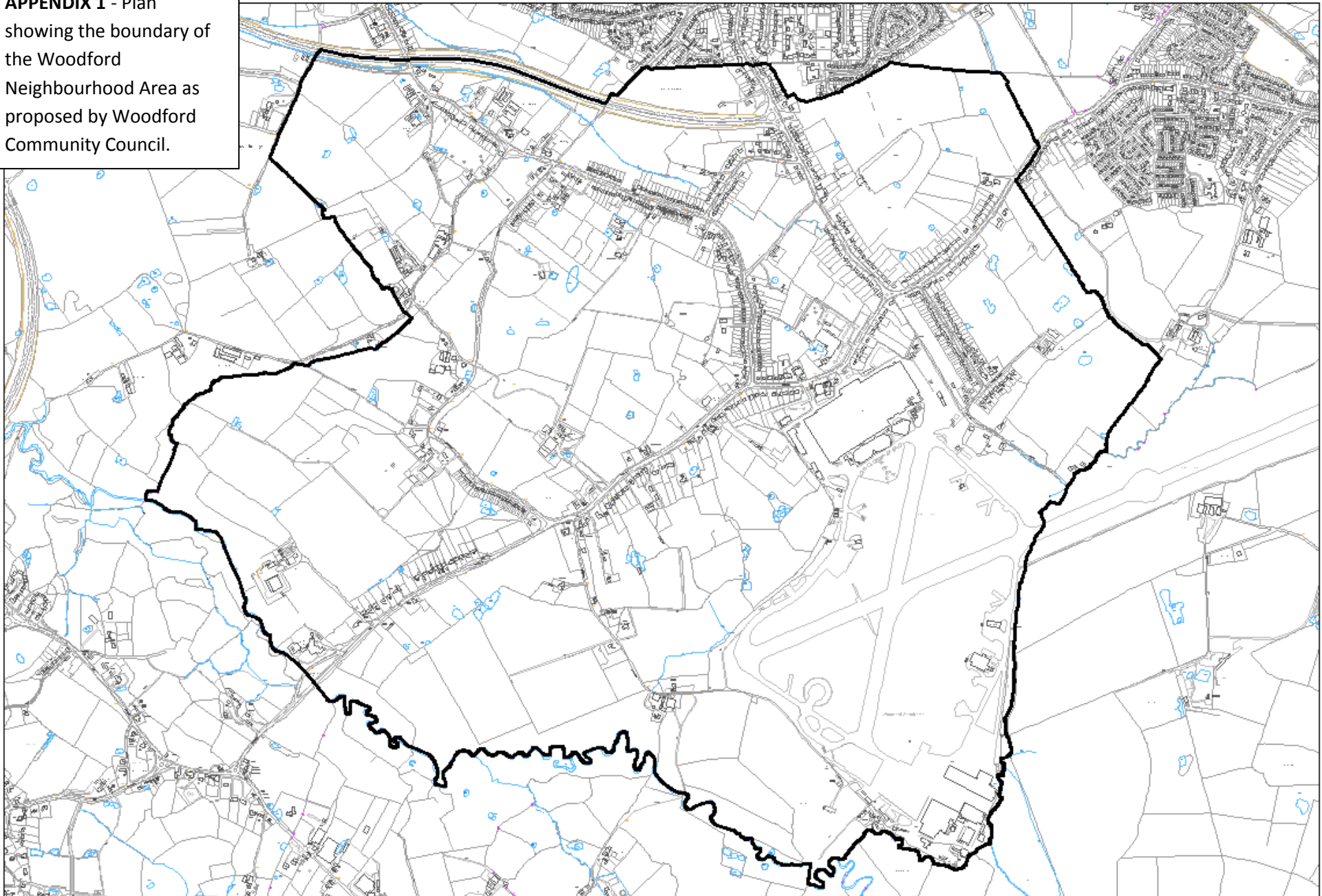
1. Plan showing the boundary of the Woodford Neighbourhood Area as proposed by Woodford Community Council.
2. Plan showing the boundary of the Woodford Neighbourhood Area as designated by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (excluding the SEMMMS Road Scheme Corridor and the Woodford Aerodrome Opportunity Site).

DESIGNATION OF WOODFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

The Council has determined to approve the designation of Woodford Neighbourhood Forum as the neighbourhood forum for the Woodford Neighbourhood Area

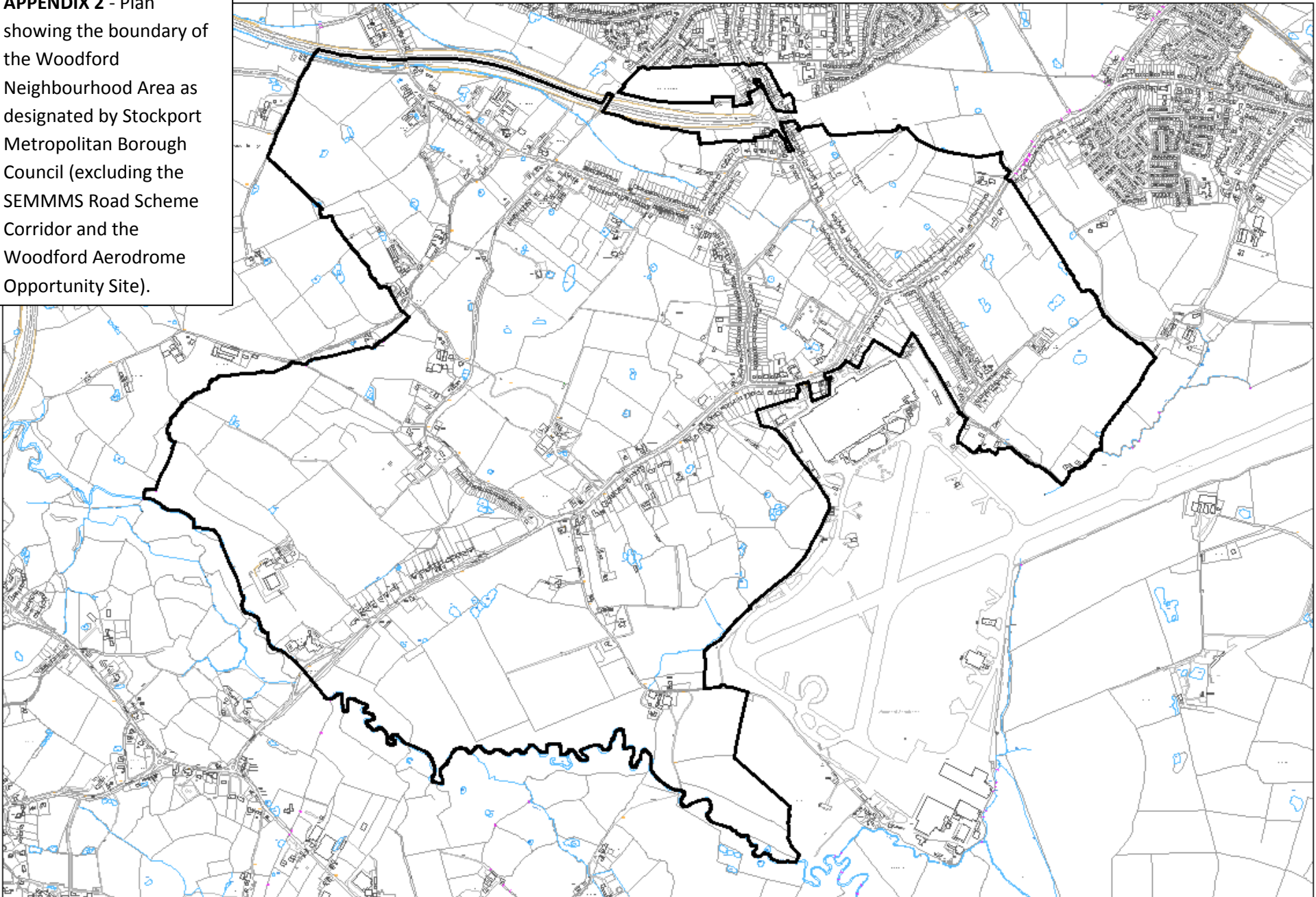
Under the Localism Act the forum is established for a period of 5 years from 17th October 2013. The designation, therefore, will expire on 17th October 2018. The designation may, however, be withdrawn at an earlier point if it is no longer meeting any conditions established at the time of its designation; this might, for example, come about if the forum was found to be failing to adhere to its own constitution or otherwise failing to meet legislative requirements.

APPENDIX 1 - Plan showing the boundary of the Woodford Neighbourhood Area as proposed by Woodford Community Council.



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APPENDIX 2 - Plan showing the boundary of the Woodford Neighbourhood Area as designated by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (excluding the SEMMMS Road Scheme Corridor and the Woodford Aerodrome Opportunity Site).



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