**CHADDERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Application for Designation of Neighbourhood Area to

Oldham MBC

Introduction

This is a formal application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for the non parished area of Chadderton.

Plan Boundary

A map is attached showing the proposed boundary of the neighbourhood area.

Justification of the Boundary

The proposed neighbourhood area consists of the three wards Chadderton North, Chadderton Central and Chadderton South (as identified by OMBC and the boundary commission) so includes the town centre, residential and employment areas as well as areas of open land and the smaller settlements of Chadderton Heights and Healds Green.

Although this is a large area there is nothing in the legislation to prevent its selection and It is worth noting that the neighbourhoods of a similar size that has been approved elsewhere both locally and nationally. It is considered appropriate to include the whole of Chadderton since local residents have a strong affinity with the area which historically was an urban district in its own right. This affinity has been borne out in the initial discussions which were held to establish the associated forum.

It is, however, recognised that Chadderton contains many different communities which may have different priorities which will have to be accommodated through the development of the plan. Any conflicts that may arise relating to land use will have to be resolved through discussion and possible compromise in order to achieve a balanced approach. For this reason it is considered desirable to include the whole of Chadderton since it is likely that the such potential areas of concern that could not be dealt with in isolation but would have to be considered in the wider context of the area as a whole. If, for example, it is deemed undesirable for development to take place in a particular area of Chadderton there would be a potential requirement to find an alternative site for that development. For that reason all the available land needs to be contained in the plan boundary.

Historically, there has been considerable interest in the improvement of the environment led by Chadderton Together which has taken the form of work by interested voluntary groups such as Firwood and District Residents’ Association. It is considered that this work could be built on by the plan to develop into a wider strategy for the area which will assist in the identification of funding for larger scale projects and will inform the responses to any future development proposals.

Planning at scale will also allow some larger issues such as transport links to have a better chance of being improved than if proposals are made on a more micro scale.

The future of the town centre has also been identified as an important issue which again will have an impact on all residents so needs to be considered in the context of the Chadderton area as a whole.

The Neighbourhood Plan will have to be prepared in the context of the emerging strategic plan Places for Everyone and the renewal of the Oldham Local Plan and will have to deal with the impact of these documents. The inclusion of the whole of Chadderton will allow informed decisions to be made about the impact of any development included in policies of Places for Everyone or Local Plan and will recongise that proposals to include or exclude sites will have an impact on other parts of Chadderton which should be considered as part of the decision making process. The designation of the whole of Chadderton will allow this to happen in an orderly fashion.

**The New Chadderton Partnership**

This will be the relevant body making the application in accordance with the Regulation 6(1)g.

An application has been made to designate a Neighbourhood Forum under the title of the New Chadderton Partnership in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations and this will make the New Chadderton Partnership a relevant body for the purposes of Section 61G of the 1990 Act.

Tony Tomlinson

Chair