



West Northamptonshire Council

Decision Statement

Ashton Neighbourhood Plan

1. Summary

1.1 Following a positive referendum result, West Northamptonshire Council is publishing its decision to 'make' the Ashton Neighbourhood Development Plan as part of Council's Development Plan, in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and the Localism Act (2017).

2. Background

2.1 Work on the Ashton Neighbourhood Plan commenced in November 2015 with the designation of the whole of Ashton parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area. In February 2019 a draft Plan was published for public consultation with a final submission plan publicised in August 2019.

2.2 In April 2020 the independent examination of the Ashton Neighbourhood Plan commenced with a further period of publicity taking place between 01 June and 17 July 2020. The report of the Examiner was received by South Northamptonshire Council on 20 November 2021.

2.3 On 20 January 2021 South Northamptonshire Council's Planning Policy and Regeneration Strategy Committee approved the Modifications recommended by the Examiner of the Ashton Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) and agree that the Plan, including those Modifications, should proceed to Referendum.

3. Decisions and Reasons

3.1 With the Examiner's recommended modifications the Ashton Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, is compatible with EU obligations and the Convention rights and complies with relevant provision made by or under Section 38A and B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

3.2 The referendum for the Ashton Neighbourhood Plan took place in Ashton on 06 May 2021 in accordance with Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

3.3 More than 50% of those who voted, voted 'Yes' in response to the question

"Do you want West Northamptonshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Ashton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

Appendix C

3.4 112 people voted in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan with 5 against, providing a majority vote of 95.7%, with 4.3% voting 'no'.

3.5 There was also a 38.51% overall turnout on the day. The results of the Referendum have been publicised on the Council's website.

3.6 Paragraph 38A (4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires that the Council must 'make' the neighbourhood plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan.

3.7 West Northamptonshire Council have assessed that the plan, including its preparation, does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

3.8 In accordance with the Regulations, Ashton Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' and planning applications in the parish must be considered against the Ashton Neighbourhood Development Plan, as well as existing planning policy documents.

4.0 Hard copies

4.1 The final version of the 'Made' plan can be viewed after Full Council, on the Council's website through the following link:

<https://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/info/47/neighbourhood-plans/29/ashton-neighbourhood-plan>

Or alternatively hard copies of the documents will also be available for inspection, after Full Council at the following venues: - The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 6AD (during opening hours 9:00am and 5:00pm)

On request the plans can also be made available in different formats. For further information please contact the Planning Policy Team on 01327 322265 or at PlanningPolicy.snc@westnorthants.gov.uk