



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

West Northamptonshire Council

Great Houghton Neighbourhood Development Plan

Decision Statement

6 May 2022

1. Summary

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

2. Background

- 2.1. Great Houghton Parish Council, as the qualifying body, applied to be designated as a neighbourhood area on 6 March 2020. Following consultation on the application Northampton Borough Council designated the neighbourhood area on 10 June 2020.
- 2.2. The draft Neighbourhood Development Plan was published by Great Houghton Parish Council for public consultation between 9 April 2021 and 28 May 2021.
- 2.3. Following submission of the Great Houghton Neighbourhood Development Plan to West Northamptonshire Council in August 2021 the plan was published for consultation between 13 September to 25 October 2021.
- 2.4. Following the submission consultation, the council, with the agreement of the Parish Council, appointed an independent Examiner, Chris Collison BA (Hons), MBA, MRTPI, MIED, IHBC, to review whether the plan met the Basic Conditions required by the legislation and should proceed to a referendum.
- 2.5. Following the examination, the Examiner's report was completed in February 2022 and made available on the Council's website. The report concludes that subject to the making of the modifications recommended in his report, the plan meets the Basic Conditions set out in legislation and should proceed to a referendum. At its meeting on 16 March 2022 West Northamptonshire Council's Planning Policy Committee considered a report on the Great Houghton Neighbourhood Development Plan (GHNDP). Having considered that report, it was resolved that Planning Policy Committee:

- a) Notes and welcomes the significant progress in making the GHNDP by Great Houghton Parish Council.
- b) Accepts the Examiner's recommended modifications in respect of the GHNDP.
- c) Accepts the Examiner's recommendation that the GHNDP, as modified in accordance with recommendation (b) above, should proceed to a referendum of voters within Great Houghton Parish.
- d) Approves the proposed decision statement set out in Appendix 1, subject to recommendations (b) and (c) above and any necessary factual alterations.
- e) Agrees that delegated authority be given to the Interim Head of Planning and Climate Change Policy to make further minor editorial changes to the GHNDP to address any factual and typographical errors and to reflect the fact that the document will be in its intended final form.
- f) Agrees that the costs of the referendum be met from the existing budget for neighbourhood planning.

3. Decision and Reasons

3.1. With the Examiner's recommended modifications, the 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 Sections 38A and B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended.

3.2. A referendum into the Plan was held on 5 May 2022. Those voting were asked the following question:

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

3.3. The count took place on Thursday 5 May 2022, the result of the referendum was as follows:

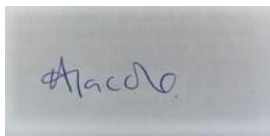
Response	Number of Votes	Percentage of Total
Yes	225	93.75%
No	15	6.25%
Turnout: 46.69%		
Number of ballot papers rejected: 0		

- 3.4. The Regulations require that a majority of those voting vote in favour for the plan to be made. **This requirement is therefore satisfied.**
- 3.5. To be legally compliant, neighbourhood development plans must not contravene Convention rights or European Union obligations when made. Based on the Screening Report for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment (May 2020 and March 2022) and confirmed by the examiner in his report (February 2022) and that nothing has come to light subsequently, there is no evidence to suggest any such contravention would occur. I am satisfied that this requirement is met and it is possible for the plan to now be made.

Upon the signing of this document by the Interim Head of Planning and Climate Change Policy, the Great Houghton Neighbourhood Plan is made and planning applications in the Great Houghton Neighbourhood Area must be considered against the Great Houghton Neighbourhood Plan, as well as existing planning policy.

I certify that the above statements are true.

Signed:

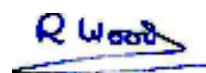
A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A Jacobs".

Amanda Jacobs, Senior Policy Officer (Planning)

Date: 6 May 2022

I certify that I am satisfied that the making the Great Houghton Neighbourhood Development Plan would not contravene Convention rights or European Union obligations.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R Wood".

Richard Wood, Interim Head of Planning and Climate Change Policy

Date: 6 May 2022