



SPRING BOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

DECISION STATEMENT REGULATION 18

January 2016

1. THE PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this Decision Statement is to set out Northampton Borough Council's decision on the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan and its reasons for it. The Decision Statement outlines the Council's decision in respect of:

- Actions taken in response to recommendations made by the Independent Examiner in the examiner's report;
- Modifications that are to be made to the Neighbourhood Plan proposal to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements; and
- The area in which the referendum will take place.

2. RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINER'S REPORT

2.1 Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Forum submitted a Neighbourhood Plan proposal (the Plan) and supporting documentation to Northampton Borough Council for examination in July 2015. With the support of Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Forum, Christopher Edward Collison BA (Hons) MBA MRTPI MIED MCMI IHBC was appointed by Northampton Borough Council to independently examine the plan proposal.

2.2 The independent Examiner published a report in September 2015. He recommended that, once modified to meet all relevant legal requirements, the Plan should proceed to referendum. The Examiner recommended six modifications, which were aimed at clarifying the policies.

2.3 Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Forum reviewed the Examiner's recommendations and subsequently presented Northampton Borough Council with a modified plan that takes on board all of the Examiner's recommendations. Northampton Borough Council considers that the modified Plan meets all the relevant legal requirements and can proceed to referendum.

3. DETAILS OF MODIFICATIONS

- 3.1 Appendix 1 outlines the modifications that Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Forum has made to the draft Plan following the Independent Examination. In modifying the Plan, Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Forum considered each of the Examiner's recommendations. The Forum's decision on each recommendation is shown in the Table in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Northampton Borough Council has reviewed each of the modifications made to the Plan by Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Forum. The Borough Council is satisfied that the modifications made to the Plan reflect those modifications recommended by the Examiner. Northampton Borough Council therefore concludes that the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements.

4. REFERENDUM AREA

- 4.1 In December 2013, Northampton Borough Council designated Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.
- 4.2 In recommending that the modified plan go forward to referendum, the Independent Examiner considered whether or not the Referendum Area should extend beyond the designated Neighbourhood Area. The Examiner recommended that the Referendum Area be the same as the Neighbourhood Area.
- 4.3 Following this recommendation, Northampton Borough Council concludes that the Referendum Area will not be extended and will be applied to the Neighbourhood Area.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Following an independent examination, Northampton Borough Council confirms that the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan, as modified, meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements.
- 5.2 The Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan can proceed to a neighbourhood planning referendum. The Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Area boundary shall define the extent of the Referendum Area.
- 5.3 Following an independent examination Northampton Borough Council now confirms that the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum, to meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. The date on which the Referendum will take place is agreed as Thursday 10th March 2016.

APPENDIX 1

Table of Recommended Modifications to Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan (SBNP)

Examiner's Recommended Modifications (ref)	SBNP ref	Decision on amendment and reason	New text (where applicable)
<p><u>Modification 1:</u> Housing needs and provision should be described consistently.</p>	OP1, OP2, AB2, AB3	Agreed.	Amend as shown.
<p><u>Modification 2:</u> Delete "planning permission will be granted" and insert "proposals will be supported"</p>	OP1	Agreed.	Amend as shown.
<p><u>Modification 3:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delete "using sources of funds as appropriate" • After "infrastructure projects" insert "demonstrably serving the needs of the local community" • Delete "non-faith based" and after "integrated community building" insert "open to use by all members of the community" 	OP4	Agreed.	Amend as shown.
<p><u>Modification 4:</u> Part B of the policy should be deleted and should be registered as a community aspiration of significance through inclusion in a non-statutory annex to the Neighbourhood Plan</p>	OP5	Agreed.	<p>New non-statutory annex to be added, with the following text:</p> <p>The neighbourhood plan will support the identification of residential streets to create "home zones" with measures to reduce and slow traffic, improve safety and give priority to pedestrians over motor vehicles.</p>

<p><u>Modification 5:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delete the 5th criterion and insert “fulfil the criteria in ‘Policy OP2 Family Housing’ should any housing be provided” • Delete the final paragraph relating to support for the creation of a Conservation Area which should be registered as a community aspiration of significance through inclusion in a non-statutory annex to the Neighbourhood Plan 	<p>AB Policy 3: Spring Boroughs</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>	<p>Amend Policy as shown/ New non-statutory annex to be added, with the following text: The neighbourhood plan would support the creation of a Conservation Area, represented by Policy Area 3, to include Saxon Palace site, St Peter’s Church, Hazelrigg House, Castle Mound and the site of Northampton Castle (to include the edge of the south bailey earthworks on Marefair and the finger of land stretching beyond Castle Mound to the Castle North Gate earthworks).</p>
<p><u>Annex: Minor Corrections to the Neighbourhood Plan</u></p> <p>The Examiner identified errors that are typographical in nature or arising from updates should be corrected. Modification of general text will be necessary to achieve consistency with the modified policies.</p> <p>The Examiner stated that the Neighbourhood Plan has been produced to a high standard of accuracy and presentation, however, it includes a small number of errors that are typographical in nature or arising from updates. He recommended the following corrections:</p>		<p>Agreed.</p>	<p>See below</p>
<p>Reference to Policy OP1 should read “Sustainable Development principles” and reference to OP2 should read “Family Housing”</p>	<p>Pg 33</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>AB Policy 2: Central Spring Boroughs, Part B, bullet point 1 to read: fulfil the criteria in Policy OP1 (Sustainable Development Principles) and OP2 (Family Housing)</p>

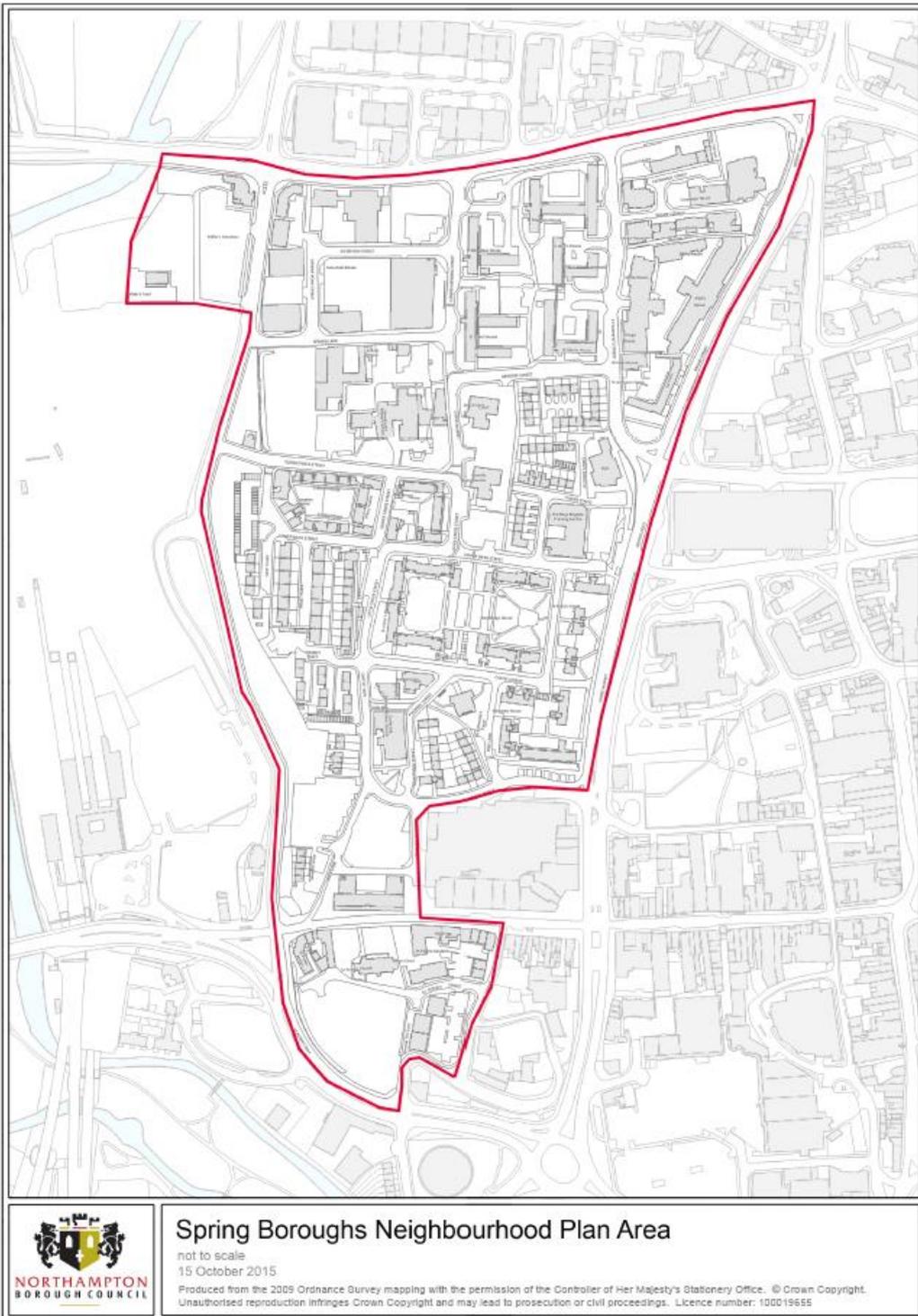
Delete the second bullet point as the text is part of the first bullet point	Pg 37	Agreed	Bullet point deleted
The first bullet point under priority Projects should be test before the list	Pg 37	Agreed	The section will read: Priority Projects The list of infrastructure projects below reflects local priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable family houses with gardens.....

In addition, the Examiner states that a number of consequential modifications to the general text of the Neighbourhood Plan will be necessary as a result of recommended modifications relating to policies. These have been identified below (amendments associated with capitals, lower case, bullet points, full stops and general typing mistakes have not been recorded).

Modification 6: Identified errors that are typographical in nature or arising from updates should be corrected. Modification of general text will be necessary to achieve consistency with the modified policies		
Reference	Amendment	Reasons
Title	The title has been changed from Spring Boroughs Submission Neighbourhood Plan to Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan (Referendum Version)	To reflect the change in the status of the Plan.
Contents Page	Section 11 amended from “ <i>Areas of Change Policies</i> ” to “ Area Based Policies ”	To ensure that the title is the same as the one provided in the Plan.
Foreword: Page 1, 1 st paragraph	Add the following statement at the end of the first paragraph: <i>This version also takes on board the modifications recommended by an Independent Examiner, following the publication of his report on the Neighbourhood Plan in September 2015</i>	To update and to reflect the fact that the Plan was examined.
Map on Page 3	Update map title to “Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan Area”	To reflect the change in the status of the Plan
Page 4, 1 st paragraphwhen it is “Made” the Neighbourhood Plan will become the part of the planning framework....	Grammar correction
	Title: synopsis of the area (relating to map on page 6) to be amended to: <i>.....relating to maps on pages 3 and 6</i>	To correctly reflect the relationship between the text and both maps
Page 7, under January 2014 –	Second sentence:showed that over 90% of <i>of</i> respondents were in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grammar correction

February 2015, 2 nd paragraph	favour.....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Factual Correction: 90% of respondents and not 905
Page 7, under "March 2015 onwards"	The paragraph has been changed from: "It is intended every household and business will receive a copy of this...and consultation will be held....." to " Every household and business received a copy of this...and consultation was held.... "	To reflect the fact that this activity has been undertaken
Page 17, 1 st linelocal community, the "below issues"... to be changed to " issues below "	Grammar correction
Page 17; bullet point 3	Lack of children's.....	Grammar correction
Page 20, Vision, 2 nd paragraph	Change ".....foot, bike and be <i>will</i> connected..." to ".....foot, bike and be well connected....."	To correct a spelling error
Page 31, 2 nd paragraph of the justificationand the new Enterprise Zone...: the word new is to be deleted	The Enterprise Zone was designated in August 2011 and is not considered to be a new designation
Page 37, under "Working in Partnership", bullet point 2	Change " <i>The County Council</i> " to " Northamptonshire County Council "	To provide the correct reference to the County Council
Vision	The Vision has been put in a box and shaded grey	To clarify visually that this is the Vision of the Plan
Policies	All policies have been put in a box and shaded green	To clarify visually that these are the policies and to distinguish them from the justification and the rest of the text

Map of the Referendum Area



ANNEX: PUBLICATION OF THE DECISION STATEMENT

Locations at which documents may be inspected:

The Specified Documents for the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan will be made available for inspection at the following locations:

Location	Opening Times
Northampton One Stop Shop, The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE	Monday – Friday: 9 am – 5 pm
Northampton Central Library, Abington Street, Northampton, NN1 2BA	Monday – Friday: 9 am – 6 pm Saturday: 9 am – 5 pm Sunday: 11 am – 4 pm
Springs Family Centre, 9 Tower Street, Northampton, NN1 2SN	Monday – Thursday: 1pm – 4pm Friday: Closed Saturday: 1pm – 4pm Sunday: Closed

The Specified Documents are also available to view online at:

<http://www.northampton.gov.uk/springboroughsreferendum2016>

All enquiries about this Decision Statement should be directed to:

- **Address:** Planning Policy, Northampton Borough Council, The Guildhall, NN1 1DE
- **Email:** neighbourhoodplanning@northampton.gov.uk or
- **Tel:** (01604) 837326