

## **South Norfolk Council**

### **Easton Neighbourhood Plan Final Decision Statement**

#### **Summary**

Following a positive referendum result, South Norfolk Council has 'made' the Easton Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for South Norfolk at a meeting of Council on 11 December 2017.

#### **Background**

On 17 April 2015, South Norfolk Council designated the parish of Easton as a neighbourhood area for the purpose of preparing a neighbourhood plan in accordance with Part Two of the Town and Country Planning (England) Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

Following the submission of the Easton Neighbourhood Plan to South Norfolk Council, the plan was publicised and representations invited. The publicity period ended on Monday 8 May 2017.

South Norfolk Council appointed an independent examiner, Mr Andrew Ashcroft, to conduct an examination into whether the Plan meets the basic conditions and should proceed to a referendum.

The Examiner's report concludes that subject to making the modifications recommended in the report, the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in the legislation and should proceed to a referendum.

Members of South Norfolk Council's Cabinet agreed on 17 July 2017 that the Easton Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a referendum.

A referendum was held on 1 September 2017. 96% who voted were in favour of the plan. 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. The Council is not subject to this duty if the plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

## Decision and Reasons

With the Examiner's recommended modifications, South Norfolk Council considers that the 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.

The referendum held on 1 September 2017 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. It was held in the parish of Easton and posed the question: '*Do you want South Norfolk District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Easton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?*'

The count took place on 1 September 2017 and greater than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the plan being used to help decide planning applications in the plan area. The results of the referendum were:

Response	Votes	% of total
Yes	381	96
No	15	4
Turnout	35%	

The Council has 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).

The Council has decided at the meeting of the Council on 11 December 2017 to 'make' the Easton Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for South Norfolk.

**Debbie Lorimer,**  
**Director of Growth & Business Development**  
December 2016