

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Ashford Hill with Headley Neighbourhood Plan

Decision Statement Published pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 Schedule 38A(9) and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

1. Summary

In accordance with the above regulations, and following a positive referendum result, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) made the Ashford Hill with Headley Neighbourhood Plan (2022-2029) on 20 October 2022. The Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the statutory Development Plan for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

2. Background

On 1 December 2017, BDBC designated the Ashford Hill with Headley Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan area covers the parish of Ashford Hill with Headley and lies solely within the Basingstoke and Deane Local Planning Authority Area. Ashford Hill with Headley Parish Council, the qualifying body, submitted the draft Ashford Hill with Headley Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents to BDBC in February 2022.

Following submission of the Ashford Hill with Headley Neighbourhood Plan, BDBC publicised the Plan and supporting documents and invited representations during the consultation period which ran from Monday 14 March until Tuesday 3 May 2022. BDBC, with the consent of Ashford Hill with Headley Parish Council, appointed an independent examiner, Ms Janet Cheesley, to review the Plan and consider whether it should proceed to referendum.

The Examiner's Report was received in June 2022 and recommended that, subject to a number of proposed modifications, the Plan should proceed to referendum. The modifications are required to ensure that the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in the legislation (Para 8(2) Schedule 4B Town and Country Planning Act 1990). The examiner also recommended that the area for the referendum be based on the designated neighbourhood area which the Plan relates to.

3. Decision and Reasons for the Decision

Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting in a

referendum have voted in favour of the Plan being used to help to decide planning applications in the area.

A local referendum was held in Ashford Hill with Headley on 8 September 2022 to decide whether the local community was in favour of the Ashford Hill with Headley Neighbourhood Plan. From the votes recorded, 201 out of 215 (92.6%) of those who voted were in favour of the plan. The turnout of electors was 19.48%.

The Council has also assessed and concluded 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). As such, the council decided the following, at the Full Council meeting on the 20 October 2022 to:

‘make the Ashford Hill with Headley Neighbourhood Plan with immediate effect, with the consequence that it becomes part of the statutory development plan for the area.’

This decision statement can be viewed on the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council website at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/AHHNP>

Hard copies of the Neighbourhood Plan are available for inspection or purchase from the Council’s Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 4AH (weekdays 8.30 to 5.00, Monday to Thursday, and 4.30 pm Fridays. Hard copies are also available to view at the Basingstoke Discovery Centre, Newbury Library and Tadley Library during their normal opening times.

Further information can be obtained from the Planning Policy Team at local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk