

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Sherborne St John 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 Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan (2011-2029) on 18 May 2017. The Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the statutory Development Plan for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

2. Background

On 27 March 2013, BDBC designated the Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan area covers the parish of Sherborne St John and lies solely within the Basingstoke and Deane Local Planning Authority Area. Sherborne St John Parish Council, the qualifying body, submitted the draft Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents to BDBC in November 2016.

Following submission of the Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan, BDBC publicised the Plan and supporting documents and invited representations during the consultation period which ran from 28 November 2016 to 16 January 2017. BDBC, with the consent of Sherborne St John 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 on 10 February 2017 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 Sherborne St John on 4 May 2017 to decide whether the local community was in favour of the Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan. From the votes recorded, 346 out of 588 (58.4%) of those who voted were in favour of the plan. The turnout of electors was 58%.

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 18 May 2017 to:

‘make the Sherborne St John 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/SSJNP>

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 and Tadley Library during their normal opening times.

Further information can be obtained from the Planning Policy Team on 01256 845464 or local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk

Matthew Evans
19 May 2017