

Basingstoke and Deane Local Planning Authority**Whitchurch Neighbourhood Development Plan 2014 – 2029****DECISION STATEMENT****Published pursuant to the Localism Act Schedule 38A(9) and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012****1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In accordance with the above regulations, and following a positive referendum result, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) made the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Development Plan on 26 October 2017. The Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory development plan for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 22 March 2013, BDBC designated the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan area covers the parish of Whitchurch and lies solely within the Basingstoke and Deane Local Planning Authority Area.
- 2.2 Whitchurch Town Council, the qualifying body, submitted the draft WNP and supporting documents to BDBC on 19 January 2017.
- 2.3 Following submission of the WNP, BDBC publicised the Plan and supporting documents and invited representations during the consultation period which ran from 27 February 2017 for 6 weeks.
- 2.4 BDBC, with the consent of Whitchurch Town Council, appointed an independent examiner, Janet Cheesley, to review the Plan and assess whether it should proceed to referendum.
- 2.5 The Examiner's Report was received in June 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 should be based on the designated neighbourhood area which the Plan relates to.

3. Local Planning Authority Decision

- 3.1 Paragraph 38(4) 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.

- 3.2 A local referendum was held in Whitchurch on 14 September 2017 to decide whether the local community were in favour of the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Plan. From the votes recorded, 1017 out of 1,096 (92.7%) of those who voted were in favour of the plan. The turnout of electors was 28%.
- 3.3 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 26 October 2017 to:

‘make the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Plan with immediate effect’.
- 3.4 This decision statement can be viewed on the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council website at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/WNP>
- 3.5 Hard copies of the Neighbourhood Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment Report Adoption Statement 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 Whitchurch Library during their normal opening times.
- 3.6 Further information can be obtained from the Planning Policy Team on 01256 845536 or local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk

Matthew Evans
Head of Planning and Infrastructure

30 October 2017