



Whitchurch Neighbourhood Development Plan Information Statement

1. About this statement

A referendum on the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Development Plan will be held on Thursday 14 September 2017. This statement provides information on the referendum that is taking place, and the neighbourhood plan it relates to.

2. Referendum on the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Development Plan

A referendum asks you to vote 'yes' or 'no' to a question. For this referendum you will receive a ballot paper which asks the following question:

Do you want Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Whitchurch to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

3. What is a neighbourhood area?

The neighbourhood area for Whitchurch is identified on the map which is included at the end of this information statement. The boundary of the neighbourhood area was approved by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council in March 2013 and covers the parish of Whitchurch.

The referendum area is identical to the area which has been designated as the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Area. The independent examiner also recommended that the Plan proceed to a referendum based on the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Area, as approved by the council.

4. Am I entitled to vote in the Referendum?

A person is entitled to vote in the referendum if on the 14 September 2017:

- he or she is entitled to vote in a local government election in the referendum area; and
- his or her qualifying address for the election is in the referendum area. A persons qualifying address is, in relation to a person registered in the register of electors, the address in respect of which he or she is entitled to be registered.

The referendum will be conducted based in accordance with procedures similar to those used at local government elections.

5. How do I vote in the Referendum?

You will be given a ballot paper at the polling station and you can vote by putting a cross (X) in the 'Yes' or 'No' box on your ballot paper. You will only be allowed to put a cross in one box or your vote will not be counted.

If more than 50% of individuals vote 'yes' in the referendum, then Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will 'make' the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Development Plan. If the Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' it will help determine planning applications in the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Area. It will also form part of the statutory development plan for Basingstoke and Deane.

If more people vote 'no' than 'yes' then the Neighbourhood Plan will not be made part of the statutory development plan for the local area.

6. What are the referendum documents and where can you view them?

There are a number of documents that are available to view as part of the referendum. These are listed below:

- The referendum version of the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- The independent examiner's report on the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- A summary of representations submitted to the independent examiner following consultation on the Plan;
- A Decision Statement from the Local Planning Authority which confirms the draft Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and other legislative requirements. It also confirms that the neighbourhood plan can proceed to referendum;
- A statement that sets out general information in respect of town and country planning, which includes neighbourhood planning.

A hard copy of all of the above documents and this Information Statement can be inspected at:

- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH (8:30am – 17:00 pm Mon – Thurs, 8:30am – 16:30pm Fri);
- Basingstoke Discovery Centre, Festival Place Shopping Centre, Basingstoke, RG21 7LS (8:30am – 18:30pm Mon – Fri, 8:30am – 16:30pm Sat);
- Whitchurch Library (Gill Nethercott Centre), Winchester Road, Whitchurch RG28 7HP (13:00 – 17:00 Mon, 13:00 -19:00 Wed, 10:00-17:00 Friday and 10:00-13:00 Sat)
- Whitchurch Town Council Offices, Town Hall, Newbury Street, Whitchurch, RG28 7DW (9:30 -11:30 Mon, Thurs and Friday; 9:30 – 12:30 Tues)

In addition, all of the documents can be viewed online on the council's website at:

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/WNP>

7. Referendum Expenses

Expenses can be incurred by an individual or body during the period of the referendum for referendum purposes.

The referendum expenses limit that will apply (as at 4 August 2017) in relation to this referendum is £2592.37. The number of persons entitled to vote in the referendum is 3,904.

8. How to find out more

Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available on the council's website at: <http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplan>

For queries regarding planning issues and neighbourhood planning in general, please contact the Planning Policy Team on 01256 845175 or by email at local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk.

Referendum Area

