

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Wootton St Lawrence Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2029

DECISION STATEMENT

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

1. Summary

1. In accordance with the above regulations, and following a positive referendum result, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) made the Wootton St Lawrence Neighbourhood Plan (2016-2029) on 19 December 2019. The Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the statutory Development Plan for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

2. Background

2. On 20 February 2014, BDBC designated the Wootton St Lawrence Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan area covers the parish of Wootton St Lawrence and lies solely within the Basingstoke and Deane Local Planning Authority Area. Wootton St Lawrence Parish Council, the qualifying body, submitted the draft Wootton St Lawrence Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents to BDBC in May 2019.
3. Following submission of the Wootton St Lawrence Neighbourhood Plan, BDBC publicised the Plan and supporting documents and invited representations during the consultation period which ran for seven weeks from 12 June to 31 July 2019. BDBC, with the consent of Wootton St Lawrence Parish Council, appointed an independent examiner, Ms Janet Cheesley, to review the Plan and consider whether it should proceed to referendum.
4. The Examiner's Report was received on 21 August 2019 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

5. 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.
6. A local referendum was held in Wootton St Lawrence on 21 November 2019 to decide whether the local community was in favour of the Wootton St Lawrence Neighbourhood Plan. From the votes recorded, 116 out of 154 (75%) of those who voted were in favour of the plan. The turnout of electors was 32.09%.

7. 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 19 December 2019 to:

‘make the Wootton St Lawrence Neighbourhood Plan with immediate effect, with the consequence that it becomes part of the statutory development plan for the area.’

8. This decision statement can be viewed on the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council website at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/WSLNP>
9. 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 normal opening hours.
10. Further information can be obtained from the Planning Policy Team on 01256 845175 or local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk

Matthew Evans - Head of Planning and Infrastructure

20 December 2019