

Chichester District Council

Cabinet

5 September 2023

West Wittering Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendations

2.0 That Cabinet approves:

2.1. The Decision Statement as set out in the appendix for publication.

2.2. The examiner's recommendation that the Neighbourhood Development Plan proceed to referendum, subject to modifications as set out in the Decision Statement.

3. Background

- 3.1. The examination into the West Wittering Neighbourhood Plan Submission Plan has now been completed and the examiner's report published. The examiner's executive summary sets out the key findings.
- 3.2. The examiner has carefully considered the contents of the West Wittering Neighbourhood Plan in relation to the requirements of the Basic Conditions. In order to ensure the Neighbourhood Plan meets these requirements the examiner recommends a number of modifications that should be made to the Plan. Subject to the inclusion of these modifications (which relate principally to revisions to the wording and content of policies), he finds that the Plan would meet the basic conditions.
- 3.3. On the basis that the Plan is amended to accommodate the identified modifications, the examiner then goes on to recommend that the draft Plan as modified should be submitted for referendum.
- 3.4. The Decision Statement (attached as an appendix to this report) sets out the examiner's recommended modifications along with the justification for each of them. This Decision Statement has been produced jointly with West Wittering Parish Council.
- 3.5. It is also the examiner's role to consider the referendum area and whether or not it is appropriate if the Plan is to proceed to referendum. In this respect the examiner

considers that the referendum area should extend to the Plan area, comprising the parish boundary in accordance with the designated area as confirmed on 15 March 2013.

4. Outcomes to be achieved

- 4.1. A referendum on a community based statutory plan that can be used to identify local features of importance and to guide future development in the neighbourhood plan area.

5. Proposal

- 5.1. In the light of the examiner's recommendation, it is proposed that the Decision Statement is agreed for publication. It is further proposed that the West Wittering Neighbourhood Plan should be modified as set out in the Decision Statement and should then proceed to referendum.

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1. If the Council does not agree the Decision Statement for publication then the West Wittering Neighbourhood Plan cannot proceed to referendum. Any alternative course of action would then depend upon the reasons why the Decision Statement was not agreed.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1. The referendum will incur appropriate costs in line with the Council's duties and procedures. These costs will be met through existing budgets.

8. Consultation

- 8.1. West Wittering Parish Council has been involved in the completion of the Decision Statement and has agreed its contents. Local members have also been made aware of the contents.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.1. There may be a negative community impact if the West Wittering Neighbourhood Plan is not agreed to proceed to referendum. The Parish and community may lose confidence in the neighbourhood planning process.

10. Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?		
	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		X
Climate Change and Biodiversity Relevant policies will provide a framework against which future planning applications in the parish may be considered.	X	
Human Rights and Equality Impact		X
Safeguarding and Early Help		X

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		X
Health and Wellbeing		X
Other		X

11. Appendices

11.1 West Wittering Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement.

12. Background Papers

12.1. None