

# Chichester District Council

Cabinet

7 July 2020

## Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan

### 1. Contacts

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### 2. Recommendations

#### 2.1 That Cabinet agrees:

- a. That the Decision Statement as set out in the appendix be published.
- b. To approve 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 Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan Submission Plan has now been completed and the examiner's report published. The examiner's summary sets out the general findings.
- 3.2. The examiner has carefully considered the contents of the Boxgrove 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 Boxgrove 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 4 December 2012.

- 3.6. Further government guidance has been published since the beginning of the Covid19 outbreak. Having confirmed the position with the Council's Principal Solicitor and Electoral Services Manager, the Council can proceed to issuing and publishing a Decision Statement in line with Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 with the referendum to be held on 6 May 2021 (in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Postponement of Elections and Referendum Regulations 2020). Once this is done, Government guidance is that the plan may carry significant weight where relevant to an application, even though it would not have been tested through referendum.

#### **4. Outcomes to be achieved**

- 4.1. Following the referendum, 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 recommendations, it is proposed that the Decision Statement is agreed for publication. It is further proposed that the Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan should be modified as set out in the Decision Statement and should then proceed to referendum. However, in the current circumstances the Decision Statement should note that the poll will not take place until 6 May 2021 due to Covid19.

#### **6. Alternatives Considered**

- 6.1. That the Council does not agree the Decision Statement for publication and the Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan cannot proceed to referendum.

#### **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. Boxgrove Parish Council and the local member have been involved in the completion of the Decision Statement and have agreed its contents. The South Downs National Park Authority has been informed and agrees with this approach.

#### **9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks**

- 9.1. There may be a negative community impact if the Boxgrove 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
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>		x
<b>Climate Change and Biodiversity</b> The plan recognises the value of supporting renewable and low carbon sources. It also seeks to incorporate biodiversity within and around development in general.	x	
<b>Human Rights and Equality Impact</b>		x
<b>Safeguarding and Early Help</b>		x
<b>General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)</b>		x
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> The plan supports independent living along with overall provision of general healthcare facilities. In addition, it looks to protect open space and local green space.	x	
<b>Other</b>		x

## 11. Appendices

11.1 Boxgrove Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement.

## 12. Background Papers

12.1. None