

Chichester District Council

Cabinet

Tuesday 4 May 2021

Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendations

2.0 That Cabinet agrees:

2.1. That the Decision Statement as set out in the appendix be published.

2.2. 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 Westbourne 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 Westbourne 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 Westbourne 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 3 December 2013.

- 3.6. 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 Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan should be modified as set out in the Decision Statement and should then proceed to referendum.

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 Westbourne 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 Westbourne 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 and grant money can be reclaimed from the Government to cover this part of the process.

8. Consultation

- 8.1. Westbourne 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 is also in agreement with the Decision Statement.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.1. There may be a negative community impact if the Westbourne 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		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 Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement.

12. Background Papers

12.1. None