

Wiltshire Council

Downton Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Final Decision Statement

Date of publication: 9 January 2017

1. Decision

- 1.1 Following an Independent Examination and a positive referendum result, Wiltshire Council has decided on 9 January 2017 pursuant to section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to 'make' the Downton Parish Neighbourhood Plan (the 'Plan').
- 1.2 The Downton Parish Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the Development Plan and its policies will be given full weight when assessing planning applications that affect land covered by the Plan.

2. Reasons for Decision

- 2.1 With the Examiner's recommended modifications the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of the Schedule 48 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, is compatible with EU obligations and the Convention rights and complies with relevant provision made by or under Section 38A and B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
- 2.2 The referendum held on 24 November 2016 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. It was held in the referendum area (consisting of the parish area of Downton) and posed the question "Do you want Wiltshire Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Downton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"
- 2.3 The count took place on 24 November 2016 and more than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the Plan being used to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood plan area. The results of the referendum were:

Response	Votes	Percent of total
YES	869	95.8%
NO	38	4.2%
Turnout	36.16%	

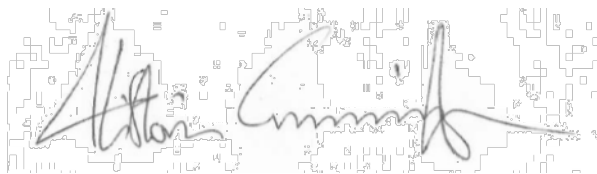
- 2.4 Wiltshire Council has assessed that the Plan including its preparation does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible, with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention Rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

3. Background

- 3.1 The Downton Neighbourhood Plan Area, situated in the south of Wiltshire, comprises the parish area of Downton. The neighbourhood area was designated on 6 August 2014 as an area for the purpose of preparing a neighbourhood plan in accordance with section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

- 3.2 Downton Parish Council (the 'qualifying body'), submitted the draft Downton Parish Neighbourhood Plan, along with supporting documents, to Wiltshire Council on 10 December 2015 for consultation, independent examination and remaining stages of the draft Plan's preparation in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- 3.3 Following submission of the draft Downton Parish Neighbourhood Plan, Wiltshire Council publicised the Plan and supporting documents and invited representations during the consultation period 12 January 2016 to 25 February 2016.
- 3.4 In April 2016, Wiltshire Council appointed an independent examiner, Mr Andrew Ashcroft BA (hons) MA, DMS, MRTPI, to examine the Plan and consider whether it should proceed to referendum.
- 3.5 The examiner's report was received in June 2016 and concluded that, subject to making the modifications recommended in the report, the draft Plan met the Basic Conditions and should proceed to referendum. The examiner also recommended that the Downton Neighbourhood Area (the parish area) would be an appropriate area within which to hold a referendum.
- 3.6 Following receipt of the examiner's report, in September 2016 Wiltshire Council published a Decision Statement to confirm that the Council was satisfied that the Downton Parish Neighbourhood Plan, as modified, complies with the legal requirements and could proceed to referendum. The Council also agreed with the examiner that the Downton Neighbourhood Area (the parish area) would be an appropriate area within which to hold a referendum.
- 3.7 A referendum was held on 24 November 2016 and 95.8% of those who voted were in favour of the Plan. Paragraph 38A (4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended requires that the Council must make the neighbourhood plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan. The Council are not subject to this duty if the making of the Plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).
- 3.8 This Decision Statement and the Neighbourhood Plan have been published on Wiltshire Council's website along with details of where they can be inspected. This information has also been brought to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the neighbourhood area.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alistair Cunningham', is written over a faint, light-colored grid pattern.

Alistair Cunningham
Associate Director
Economic Development and Planning

Dated: 9 January 2017