

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SONNING COMMON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN: FINAL DECISION STATEMENT

1. Summary

- 1.1 Following a positive referendum result South Oxfordshire District Council has made the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan part of the Development Plan at a full Council meeting on Thursday 13 October 2016.

2. Background

- 2.1 Sonning Common Parish Council, as the qualifying body successfully applied for Sonning Common parish, and parts of Kidmore End and Rotherfield Peppard parishes, to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area, under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012), which came into force on 6 April 2012.
- 2.2 Following the submission of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan Submission Version ('the plan') to the council, the plan was publicised and comments were invited from the public and stakeholders. The consultation period closed on 17 March 2016.
- 2.3 South Oxfordshire District Council appointed an independent examiner, Nigel McGurk, to review whether the plan met the basic conditions required by legislation and should proceed to referendum.
- 2.4 The examiner's report concluded that the plan meets the basic conditions, and that subject to the modifications proposed in the report, and which are set out in the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan Decision Statement of 29 July 2016, the plan should proceed to referendum.
- 2.5 A referendum was held on Thursday, 29 September 2016 and 94% 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 Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act (1998)).

3. Decision and Reasons

- 3.1 With the Examiner's recommended modifications the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B 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.
- 2.1 The referendum held on 29 September 2016 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, it was held in the parish of Sonning Common and posed the question: 'Do you want South Oxfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Sonning Common Area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'
- 2.2 The count took place on Thursday 29th September 2016 and greater than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the plan being used to help decide planning applications in the plan area. The results of the referendum were:

Response	Votes	Per cent of total
Yes	1,344	94.1%
No	82	5.7%
Spoilt	3	0.2%
Turnout	1,429	47.6%

- 2.3 The 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).
- 2.4 The Council decided at the Council meeting on 13 October 2016 to make the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan part of the Development Plan for South Oxfordshire.



John Cotton
South Oxfordshire District Council Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Planning
Date: 2nd November 2016