

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council East Woodhay Neighbourhood Plan

Decision Statement

Published pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 Schedule 38A(9) and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

1. Summary

In accordance with the above regulations, and following a positive referendum result, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) made the East Woodhay Neighbourhood Plan (2022-2029) on 23 February 2023. The Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the statutory Development Plan for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

2. Background

On 5 November 2013, BDBC designated the East Woodhay Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan area covers the parish of East Woodhay and lies solely within the Basingstoke and Deane Local Planning Authority Area. East Woodhay Parish Council, the qualifying body, submitted the draft East Woodhay Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents to BDBC in March 2022.

Following submission of the East Woodhay Neighbourhood Plan, BDBC publicised the Plan and supporting documents and invited representations during the consultation period which ran from Monday 14 March until Tuesday 3 May 2022. BDBC, with the consent of East Woodhay Parish Council, appointed an independent examiner, Ms Janet Cheesley, to review the Plan and consider whether it should proceed to referendum.

However, the examination of the plan was delayed to enable further work to take place on the impact of the Plan upon protected nature conservation sites in the Solent. This is because a small part of the parish is within the catchment of the River Test where advice from Natural England indicates that wastewater from new overnight accommodation could have significant effects upon those protected habitats. As a result of this, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening report, and Policy HO2 (Settlement Policy Boundary and Building in the Countryside) of the Neighbourhood Plan were updated. Consequential changes were also made to the Basic Conditions

Statement. The Council carried out further consultation on these changes between July and September 2022.

The Examiner's Report was received in October 2022 and recommended that, subject to a number of proposed modifications, the Plan should proceed to referendum. The modifications were required to ensure that the Plan met the basic conditions set out in the legislation (Para 8(2) Schedule 4B Town and Country Planning Act 1990). The examiner also recommended that the area for the referendum be based on the designated neighbourhood area which the Plan relates to.

3. Decision and Reasons for the Decision

Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting in a referendum have voted in favour of the Plan being used to help to decide planning applications in the area.

A local referendum was held in East Woodhay on 19 January 2023 to decide whether the local community was in favour of the East Woodhay Neighbourhood Plan. From the votes recorded, 446 out of 468 (95.1%) of those who voted were in favour of the plan. The turnout of electors was 20.5%.

The Council has also assessed and concluded 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). As such, the council decided the following, at the Full Council meeting on the 23 February 2023 to:

'make the East Woodhay Neighbourhood Plan with immediate effect, with the consequence that it becomes part of the statutory development plan for the area.'

This decision statement can be viewed on the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council website at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/EWNP>

Hard copies of the Neighbourhood Plan are available for inspection or purchase from the Council's Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 4AH (weekdays 8.30 to 5.00, Monday to Thursday, and until 4.30 pm on Fridays). Hard copies are also available to view at the Basingstoke Discovery Centre and Newbury Library during their normal opening times.

Further information can be obtained from the Planning Policy Team at local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk