



Basingstoke
and Deane

Basingstoke and Deane Local Planning Authority

Sherborne St John Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2011 – 2029 (as modified November 2023)

REGULATION 18 DECISION STATEMENT (accepting the examiner's recommendations)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), the borough council has a statutory duty to assist communities in the preparation of neighbourhood plans and to progress their neighbourhood plans through examination, referendum (if required) and to 'make' the Plan.
- 1.2 In accordance with Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) has produced this 'Decision Statement' in relation to the updated Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan as modified November 2023 (SSJ NP). This statement confirms that the modifications proposed in the Examiner's Report on the SSJ NP have been accepted by the borough council and the Plan has been consequently amended.
- 1.3 The Examiner's Report and submission SSJ NP, including supporting documents, can be viewed on the council's website at:
<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/SSJNP>
- 1.4 Hard copies of the documents can also be viewed at the borough council offices (Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH).

2. Background

- 2.1 On 27 March 2013, BDBC designated the Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan area covers the parish of Sherborne St John and lies solely within the Basingstoke and Deane Local Planning Authority Area.

- 2.2 The current Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan was ‘made’ at Full Council on 18 May 2017 following an independent examination and a positive vote at referendum.
- 2.3 Sherborne St John Parish Council (SSJ PC), the qualifying body took the decision to update this plan in November 2022. They submitted the updated plan and supporting documents to BDBC on 30 November 2023.
- 2.4 Following submission of the updated SSJ NP, BDBC publicised the Plan and supporting documents and invited representations during the consultation period which ran from Monday 15 January through to Monday 26 February 2024. BDBC also published a Modification Proposal Statement setting out its view that the plan required an independent examination but did not require a referendum.
- 2.5 BDBC, with the consent of SSJ PC, appointed an independent examiner, Janet Cheesley to review the Plan and assess the type of modification that was being proposed and whether this would require a referendum.
- 2.6 The Examiner’s Report was received on 11 April 2024 and recommended that, subject to a number of proposed modifications, the Plan should be made. The modifications are required to ensure that the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in the legislation (Para 8(2) Schedule 4B Town and Country Planning Act 1990).
- 2.7 In accordance with the legislation (Schedule 4B paragraph 12 Town and Country Planning Act 1990), the Local Planning Authority must decide what action to take in response to the examiner’s recommendations, what modifications to make to the Plan and whether the Plan should proceed to be made.

3. Local Planning Authority Decision

- 3.1 Having considered the Examiner’s Report the Local Planning Authority confirms that:
- The Examiner’s recommended modifications are accepted and agreed. The modifications have been agreed and are supported by the Local Planning Authority in the interests of ensuring that the updated SSJ NP meets the basic conditions, improving precision for accurate interpretation of the Plan, and making necessary minor edits to the Plan.
 - The SSJ NP, incorporating all the recommended modifications and consequential modifications¹, should proceed to Council to be made as the Plan:

¹ Modifications in order to correct errors/inaccuracies resulting from the amendments made in light of the Examiner’s Report.

- meets the basic conditions in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), and not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017(7);
 - is compatible with Convention Rights (the European Convention on Human Rights) and complies with the Human Rights Act 1998;
 - is compliant with the provision made by or under sections 38A and 38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- The recommended modifications will not have significant environmental effects.
 - The plan should be made based on the Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Area, as approved by the council in 2017.

3.2 This decision has been made in accordance with the relevant legislation, guidance and advice and in response to the recommendations made in the examiner's report.