

VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MAKING BLEWBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DECISION STATEMENT

14 December 2016

Summary

1. The Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan was made at Full Council on 14 December 2016. The plan now forms part of the statutory development plan for the Vale of White Horse district and will be used in determining applications in the defined neighbourhood area, which covers all of Blewbury Parish.

Background

2. Blewbury Parish Council, as the qualifying body, successfully applied for Blewbury to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area, under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, which came into force on 6 April 2012.
3. Following the submission of the Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan for Examination to the district council, the plan was publicised and comments were invited from the public and stakeholders.
4. Following discussion with Blewbury Parish Council, Vale of White Horse District Council appointed independent examiner, John Slater, to review whether the plan met the basic conditions and if the plan should proceed to referendum, as required by legislation.
5. The Examiner's Report recommended a number of modifications and advised that following these changes the plan will meet the Basic Conditions and should proceed to referendum. Following discussion with Blewbury Parish Council, the district council accepted all of the modifications as recommended. The district council considered that the plan meets the basic conditions following those modifications and the plan proceeded to a referendum.
6. The referendum area was not extended beyond the neighbourhood area.

Decision and Reasons

7. The District Council is required to formally make the Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan part of the development plan, if more than half of those voting in the referendum have voted in favour of the Plan being used to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.

8. The council, as the Local Planning Authority, is not subject to that duty if it considers that the plan would breach, or otherwise be incompatible with any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights.
9. Following changes recommended by the independent examiner, a successful referendum took place on the Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan on 24 November 2016. There were 531 yes votes and 31 no votes when asked if the neighbourhood plan should become part of the statutory development plan for the district.
10. The Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan will not have significant environmental effects. This was determined in a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion following consultation with the relevant statutory bodies. The neighbourhood plan will not affect European protected sites. There is no evidence that suggests the neighbourhood plan will have a significant effect on a European offshore marine site.
11. Furthermore, the Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan has had regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). There has been full and adequate opportunity for all interested parties to take part in the preparation of the Plan and make their comments known. The neighbourhood plan does not breach, nor is in any way incompatible with the ECHR. The plan meets all legislative requirements.
12. Therefore, following a successful vote in favour, the Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan complies with all of the statutory and legal requirements and basic conditions set out in the Localism Act 2011. Following the Full Council on 14 December 2016 the Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan is made.

Councillor Roger Cox

Vale of White Horse District Council
Cabinet Member for Planning Policy
14 December 2016