

VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CUMNOR NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN: FINAL DECISION STATEMENT

DATE OF PUBLICATION – 01 September 2021

1. Decision

- 1.1. Following an Independent Examination and a positive referendum result Vale of White Horse District Council decided at the Council meeting on 18 May 2021:
1. To make the Cumnor Neighbourhood Development Plan so that it continues to be part of the council's development plan.
 2. To delegate to the Head of Planning, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member and in agreement with the Qualifying Body, the correction of any spelling, grammatical, typographical or factual errors together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.

2. Background

- 2.1 The parish of Cumnor was designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 12 January 2017.
- 2.2 Following the submission of the Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan Examination Version ('the Plan') to the Council, the plan was publicised and comments were invited from the public and stakeholders. The consultation period closed on 3 December 2020.
- 2.3 Vale of White Horse District Council appointed an independent Examiner, Andrew Ashcroft, to review whether the plan met the basic conditions required by legislation and whether the plan should proceed to referendum.
- 2.4 The Examiner's Report concluded, subject to the modifications proposed in his report, that the plan meets the Basic Conditions. The council determined on 15 March 2021 that the Plan, as modified by the Examiner's recommendations, should proceed to referendum.

2.5 A referendum was held on Thursday, 6 May 2021 and 91% of those who voted were in favour of the plan.

3. Reason for Decision

3.1 Section 38A(4)(a) of the 2004 Act requires the Council to make the neighbourhood 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. Section 38A (6) of the 2004 Act states that the Local Planning Authority is not subject to the duty if it considers that the making of the Plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights.

3.2 The council determined on 15 March 2021 that the Plan, as modified by the Examiner's recommendations, 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.

3.3 Section 6 of the Basic Conditions Statement submitted in support of the Plan outlined the Qualifying Body's considerations to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), in particular their regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the ECHR and the Human Rights Act. The council is satisfied that the preparation of the Plan had regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European ECHR and that it complies with the Human Rights Act. The Council is satisfied that there has been full and adequate opportunity for all interested parties to take part in the preparation of the Plan and to make their comments known.

3.4 Vale of White Horse District Council produced a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Determination in October 2019, which confirmed that a SEA and an Appropriate Assessment were not required on the Plan. The screening determination has been subject to consultation with the relevant statutory consultees, who confirmed the decision. The Council's Decision Statement issued on 18 March 2021 under Regulation 18(2) confirmed that the modifications accepted by the Council, both separately and combined, produce no likely significant environmental effects and are unlikely to have any significant effects on European Designated Sites.

- 3.5 Therefore, the Council is satisfied that the making of the Cumnor Neighbourhood Development Plan, incorporating the modifications recommended by the Examiner and accepted by the council, would not breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights.
- 3.6 A referendum relating to the adoption of the Cumnor Neighbourhood Development Plan was held on Thursday 6 May 2021.
- 3.7 The question which was asked in the Referendum was: *“Do you want Vale of White Horse District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Cumnor to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”*
- 3.8 The result was as follows:

| Response | Votes | Per cent of total |
|----------|-------|-------------------|
| Yes | 2014 | 91% |
| No | 200 | 9% |
| Turnout | 2214 | 45% |

- 3.9 The majority of local electors voted in favour of the plan; therefore, the Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan has become part of the council’s development plan.
- 3.10 As the plan was approved at the local referendum and the council is satisfied it would not breach and be otherwise incompatible with EU obligations or human rights legislation, the council is required make the Cumnor Neighbourhood Development Plan so that it continues to be part of the council’s development plan.
- 3.11 The Council decided at the Council meeting on 18 May 2021 to make the Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for Vale of White Horse.

4. Other Information

- 4.1 In accordance with Regulations 19 and 20 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, this Decision Statement and the made Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed on the Council’s website:
<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/cumnornp>
- 4.2 Hard copies of this Decision Statement and the Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan can be inspected at:

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| <p>Reception Vale of White Horse District Council 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB</p> | <p>Please note that documents are available on an appointment only basis as the offices are currently closed to the public. Please contact us on 01235 422425 or email planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk if you need help accessing the documents.</p> |
| <p>Dean Court Community Centre Pinnocks Way Dean Court OX2 9DG</p> | <p>Please email deancourtcc@gmail.com or call 01865 236160 between 9.30am – 12pm on Mondays and 9.30am – 11am on Thursdays to arrange an appointment to view the documents.</p> |

4.3 In accordance with Regulation 19(b) and Regulation 30 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, a copy of this Decision Statement has been sent to:

- The qualifying body, namely Cumnor Parish Council
- The persons who asked to be notified of the decision

Signed: 

Date: 26/08/2021

Ricardo Rios
Planning Policy Team Leader (Neighbourhood)