

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

WOODCOTE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: FINAL DECISION STATEMENT

DATE OF PUBLICATION – 15 MAY 2014

1. Summary

- 1.1. Following a positive referendum result South Oxfordshire District Council has made the Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan at a full Council meeting on Thursday 15 May 2014.

2. Background

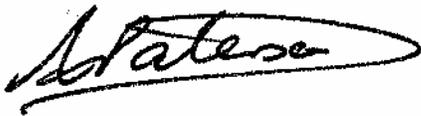
- 2.1 Woodcote Parish Council, as the qualifying body successfully applied for Woodcote parish to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area, under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012), which came into force on 6 April 2012.
- 2.2 Following the submission of the Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan 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 8 November 2013.
- 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 whether the plan 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 his report and which are set out in the Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement of 15 January 2014, that plan should proceed to referendum.
- 2.5 A referendum was held on 3 April 2014, 91% 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. Decisions 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.
- 3.2 The referendum held on 3 April 2014 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, it was held in the parish of Woodcote and posed the question: 'Do you want South Oxfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Woodcote to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'.
- 3.3 The count took place on Thursday 3 April 2014 and greater than 50% of those who votes 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	1072	91
No	103	9
Turnout	1175	59.3

- 3.4 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).
- 3.5 The Council decided at the Council meeting on 15 May 2014 to make the Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for South Oxfordshire.



Rev'd Angie Paterson

South Oxfordshire District Council Cabinet member with Portfolio for Planning

15 May 2014