

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THAME NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: FINAL DECISION STATEMENT

DATE OF PUBLICATION - 18 JULY 2013

1. Summary

1.1 Following a positive referendum result South Oxfordshire District Council has made the Thame Neighbourhood Development Plan part of the Development Plan at a full council meeting on Thursday 18 July 2013.

2. Background

2.1 Thame Town Council, as the qualifying body successfully applied for Thame 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 Thame 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 24 January 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 Thame Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement of 8 March 2013, the plan should proceed to a Referendum.

2.5 A referendum was held on 2 May 2013, 76.47% 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 of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

3. Decision 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 2 May 2013 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, it was held in the parish of Thame and posed the question: 'Do you want South Oxfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for the Thame Area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area'.

3.3 The count took place on Friday 3 May 2013 and greater than 50% of those who voted 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	2779	76.47
NO	855	23.52
TURNOUT	39.8 per cent	

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 18 July 2013 to make the Thame Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for South Oxfordshire.



Rev'd Angie Paterson
South Oxfordshire District Council Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Planning
13 June 2013