



Harpenden Neighbourhood Development Plan

Decision Statement

This document sets out the decision of St Albans City and District Council on whether the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan can proceed to referendum and its reasons for its decision.

Background

St Albans City and District Council approved the designation of the neighbourhood plan area for the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan on 17 March 2016. The neighbourhood plan area covers the whole of Harpenden Town and Harpenden Rural Parishes.

The Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to St Albans City and District Council and, following a statutory six week publicity period, was the subject of an independent examination.

St Albans City and District Council, with the agreement of the qualifying body (Harpenden Town Council and Harpenden Rural Parish Council), appointed Dr Andrew Freeman as the independent examiner of the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan.

The examination was carried out by way of written representations. The examiner's final report was received 6 September 2018. It contains the Examiner's findings on legal and procedural matters and their assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan against the basic conditions. The Examiner's Report concludes that, subject to modifications, the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan satisfies the basic conditions and legal requirements and should proceed to referendum.

Decision

The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012), Regulation 18, requires the local planning authority to decide what action to take with regard to the examiner's recommendations.

St Albans City and District Council, at its 18 October 2018 Cabinet meeting, considered the Examiner's report and recommended modifications to the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan. Cabinet decided to accept the Examiner's modifications and agreed the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum. The reason for this decision is that subject to the Examiner's suggested modifications the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions, is compatible with the Convention rights and complies with the other requirements in paragraph 12(4) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan will be updated to incorporate all the modifications recommended by the Examiner.

The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 amended the timescale set in the original Regulations. This now requires a referendum to be held within 56 working days of the Decision Statement being published unless the local planning

authority and the qualifying body agree that the referendum need not be held within 56 working days.

St Albans City and District Council's Cabinet report, Examiners Report including the schedule of the Examiner's modifications, and copy of the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed on St Albans City and District Council's website at www.stalbans.gov.uk. Hard copies of this Decision Statement can be viewed up until 8 February 2019 at Harpenden Town Council offices and Harpenden Library:

Harpenden Town Council Office, Town Hall, Leyton Road, AL5 2LX: Mon, Wed, Fri (10am-2pm)

Harpenden Library, 27 High Street, AL5 2RU: Normal Service: Mon (9am-6pm), Tues (1-6pm), Thurs (9am-7pm), Fri (1-6pm), Sat (9am-5pm) Library Express: Tues (9am-1pm), Wed (9am-7pm), Fri (9am-1pm)

Please check the relevant websites for up to date opening hours.

The date of the referendum will be Thursday 7 February 2019.