

Cabinet Report



Listening Learning Leading

Report of Head of Planning

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To: CABINET

Date: 6 October 2016

Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan

Recommendation

That, following the outcome of the referendum on 29th September 2016, Cabinet recommends to Council that the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan be made.

Purpose of Report

1. This report sets out the result of the referendum into the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan held on 29th September 2016 and sets out the next steps required to “make” the plan.

Corporate Objectives

2. The making of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan furthers the following corporate objective:

We will facilitate sustainable communities by:

- *Strongly supporting the development of neighbourhood plans for our towns and villages*

Background

3. Sonning Common Parish Council, as the qualifying body, successfully applied for the parish of Sonning Common and including areas within Kidmore End and Rotherfield Peppard, to be designated as a Neighbourhood Plan Area, under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012). Following a six-week consultation, the area was designated 25 October 2013.
4. Following the submission of the Sonning Common 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 17 March 2016.
5. South Oxfordshire District Council appointed an independent Examiner, Nigel McGurk, to review whether the plan met the basic conditions as set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and whether the plan should proceed to referendum.
6. 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 Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement of 29 July 2016 that the plan should proceed to referendum.
7. Modifications were made to form a referendum version of the plan.
8. To meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 the referendum posed the question: 'Do you want South Oxfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for the Sonning Common Area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area'.
9. The referendum was held on Thursday 29th September 2016. The voting was as follows:
 - Votes cast 1429
 - 47.6% turnout
 - Votes Yes to NDP : 1,344
 - Votes No to NDP : 82
 - Spoilt or not clear : 3
 - Therefore: Yes is 94% and No 6 % of votes cast.
10. The referendum outcome is therefore clearly in favour of making the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan.
11. Cabinet is therefore requested to formally recommend to Council on 13 October 2016 that the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan be made.

Options

12. 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. This requirement has been met.

Financial Implications

13. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

14. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Risks

15. None are identified.

Other implications

16. None are identified.

Background Papers

None