

## **HOLT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DECISION STATEMENT (PROCEEDING TO REFERENDUM)**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. Pursuant to the Wiltshire Council constitution and in particular Part 3B, the Associate Director for Economic Development and Planning within whose remit Spatial Planning falls is authorised to make decisions on Neighbourhood Plan proposals following the examination of a Neighbourhood Plan proposal in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and all other relevant legislation.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. The designated area for the Holt Neighbourhood Plan comprises the whole of the parish of Holt. On 22 May 2013 Wiltshire Council formally approved that the Holt Neighbourhood Area (i.e. the land within the parish of Holt) be designated in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- 2.2. Holt Parish Council – the ‘qualifying body’, submitted the draft Holt Neighbourhood Plan, along with supporting documents, to Wiltshire Council 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015 for consultation, independent examination and the remaining stages of the draft Plan’s preparation in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- 2.3. Following submission of the draft Holt Neighbourhood Plan, Wiltshire Council publicised the Plan and supporting documents and invited representations during the consultation period 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015.
- 2.4. On 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016, Wiltshire Council appointed an independent examiner, Ms Ann Skippers BSc (Hons) Dip Mgmt (Open) PGC(TLHE)(Open) MRTPI FRSA AoU, to examine the Plan and consider whether it should proceed to referendum.
- 2.5. The examiner’s report was received in July 2016 and concluded that subject to making the modifications recommended in the report, that the draft Plan meets the Basic Conditions and should proceed to referendum. The examiner also recommended that the Holt Neighbourhood Area (the parish area) is an appropriate area within which to hold a referendum.
- 2.6. In accordance with legislation, Wiltshire Council must consider each of the recommendations made in the examiner’s report, decide what action to take in response to each recommendation and what modifications should be made to the draft Plan in order to be satisfied that it meets the Basic Conditions and is compatible

with Convention Rights. If the authority is satisfied then a referendum must be held. Consideration also needs to be given as to whether to extend the area to which the referendum is to take place.

### **3. DECISION AND REASONS**

- 3.1. Having considered the examiner's recommendations and reasons for them, the Council concurs with the examiner's view and have decided to make modifications to the draft Holt Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that it meets legal requirements including the Basic Conditions as set out in legislation. Appendix 1 sets out these modifications, together with the reasons for them.
- 3.2. The Council is satisfied that the Neighbourhood Plan, as modified, complies with the legal requirements and can proceed to referendum.
- 3.3. The Council also agrees with the examiner that the referendum area should reflect the extent of the parish of Holt.
- 3.4. I declare that I have no private interest in respect of this matter that would prevent me from making this decision.

**Signed:**



**Alistair Cunningham**

Associate Director, Economic Development & Planning  
Wiltshire Council

**Dated:** 15 September 2016