

Preston Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Decision Statement

Background

North Hertfordshire District Council approved the application for the Parish of Preston to be designated as a neighbourhood area by delegated decision on 14 June 2016 to enable the preparation of a neighbourhood plan for the Parish. Preston Parish Council subsequently commenced preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan in consultation with the local community.

The Preston Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2nd submission was then submitted to North Hertfordshire District Council who undertook the statutory consultation in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012) between 12 March and 25 April 2019.

The District Council, with the agreement of Preston Parish Council, appointed an independent examiner, Andrew Ashcroft, to undertake an examination into the Preston Parish Neighbourhood Plan. The examiners report was issued on 5 November 2019.

The Examiner recommended a number of modifications were made to the Plan to ensure it meets the necessary basic conditions. The Examiner concluded in the report as follows:

On the basis of the findings in this report I recommend to North Hertfordshire District Council that subject to the incorporation of the modifications set out in this report that the Preston Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan should proceed to referendum.

I am required to consider whether the referendum area should extend beyond the Plan area. In my view, the neighbourhood area is entirely appropriate for this purpose and no evidence has been submitted to suggest that this is not the case. I therefore recommend that the Plan should proceed to referendum based on the neighbourhood area as originally approved by North Hertfordshire District Council on 14 June 2016.

Decision

The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012), Regulation 81, requires the local planning authority to decide what action to take with the examiner's recommended modifications to the Plan as set out in his report.

North Hertfordshire District Council at a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 17 December 2019 considered the Examiner's recommended modifications to the Plan and accepted all the proposed modifications in the Examiner's report. The reason for this decision is to ensure that the Preston Parish Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and will be a robust planning document.

The Council's Cabinet report, Examiners Report and copy of the Preston Parish Neighbourhood Plan including proposed modifications can be viewed on the Council's website at: <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/approved-neighbourhood-areas-preston>

Next steps

The Preston Parish Neighbourhood Plan will now be subject of a Referendum in the designated Preston Neighbourhood Planning Area, the Parish of Preston.

The date of the forthcoming referendum will be Thursday 5 March 2020.