



Ashwell Neighbourhood Plan

Decision Statement

Background

North Hertfordshire District Council approved the application for the Parish of Ashwell to be designated as a neighbourhood area by delegated decision on 25 March 2014 to enable the preparation of a neighbourhood plan for the Parish. Ashwell Parish Council subsequently commenced preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan in consultation with the local community.

The Ashwell Neighbourhood Plan 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 2 March and 15 April 2021.

The District Council, with the agreement of Ashwell Parish Council, appointed an independent examiner, Andrew Ashcroft, to undertake an examination into the Ashwell Neighbourhood Plan. The examiners report was issued on 20 October 2021.

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, the Ashwell Neighbourhood Development Plan should proceed to referendum.

I am required to consider whether the referendum area should be extended 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 approved by North Hertfordshire District Council on 25 March 2014.

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 21 December 2021 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 Ashwell Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and will be a robust planning document.

The Council's Cabinet report, Examiners Report and copy of the Ashwell Neighbourhood Plan including proposed modifications can be viewed on the Council's website at: [Approved Neighbourhood Areas - Ashwell | North Herts Council \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/consultation/2021/12/16/Approved-Neighbourhood-Areas-Ashwell)

Next steps

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

The date of the forthcoming referendum will be Thursday 3 March 2022.