



Report Number
Committee: Prosperous Communities
Date: 25th October 2016

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Subject: Scothern Neighbourhood Plan Public Referendum

Report by:

Chief Operating Officer, Mark Sturgess

Contact Officer:

Luke Brown
Neighbourhood Planning Officer
Luke.brown@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

To receive the report and recommend the progression to public referendum for the Riseholme Neighbourhood Plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S): Members formally approve the Scothern Neighbourhood Plan advancing to Public Referendum, in line with the advice received from the independent Examiner.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: This work is a duty under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations 2012 (amended).

Financial: Additional financial contributions are available from DCLG to support Neighbourhood Planning and cover the cost of the public referendum.

Staffing: Neighbourhood Planning officer’s role is to support each NDP group in progressing through the process.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :
The Scothern Neighbourhood Plan has been through an independent Examination and has been checked to see whether it does pose any issues related to Human Rights, Equality and Diversity.

Risk Assessment : n/a

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities : n/a

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
Appendix A: Copy of the Examiner’s report

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1.0 Background to the Scothern Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.1 The Scothern Neighbourhood Plan area was designated on the 9th April 2015. After this, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group undertook a significant amount of public consultation to identify the core issues that the local community would like to see included within the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 Several consultations have taken place, as well as public meetings, public events, community days and discussions with local businesses.
- 1.3 The Neighbourhood Plan Group identified and commissioned a number of technical reports and evidence base studies in order to support the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. The evidence base was also used to inform the planning policies and justification for the various issues raised by the community.

Issues and policies included within the Neighbourhood Plan, include:

- Location of future housing
- Type and design of new development
- Protection of Local Green spaces
- Landscape and built character

2.0 Examination and Public Referendum

- 2.1 There are two statutory final stages in completing the Neighbourhood Plan that are the responsibility of West Lindsey District Council to organise and cover the costs for; i) the independent examination, and ii) the referendum. The independent examination has now been completed and the Independent Examiner (Andrew Ashcroft) has advised that the plan should proceed to public referendum.
- 2.2 Accordingly, it is now recommended that members support and approve this next stage of the process and, in line with regulations, agree the date for this to happen. The District Council must give at least 28 working days notice in advance of the start of the referendum. The qualifying body (Neighbourhood Plan Group) may campaign before the referendum.
- 2.3 The Scothern Public Referendum has been scheduled to take place on **Thursday the 26th January 2017.**

2.4 Members will recall from the two successful previous referendums that if more than 50% of those voting in the referendum vote 'yes', then the council will bring the plan into legal force.

3.0 Next Steps after the Referendum

3.1 If the outcome of the public referendum is supportive of the plan (i.e. more than 50% of the people who vote, vote in favour of the Plan) the Local Planning Authority must formally 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan. Again, as with the two previous 'made' plans, this will be formalised by bringing the Neighbourhood Plan back before Council for a final time. Subject to a positive outcome at public referendum, it is likely that this will be at the March (2017) Full Council meeting.

3.2 Once this has been undertaken the Neighbourhood Plan form part of the statutory planning policy requirements for the Scothern parish area.

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 **Members formally approve the Scothern Neighbourhood Plan advancing to Public Referendum, in line with the advice received from the independent Examiner.**