



Council

Monday, 28 June 2021

**Subject: Adoption of the Scotton, Bishop Norton and Atterby,
Gainsborough, and Morton Neighbourhood Plans**

Report by:	Assistant Director of Planning and Regeneration
Contact Officer:	Nev Brown Senior Neighbourhood Planning Policy Officer nev.brown@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	To adopt the Scotton, Bishop Norton and Atterby, Gainsborough, and Morton Neighbourhood Plans.

RECOMMENDATION(S): To adopt the Scotton, Bishop Norton and Atterby, Gainsborough, and Morton Neighbourhood Plans in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: This work is a duty under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

Financial : FIN/35/22/JA

For every completed neighbourhood plan the Council receives a grant of £20k from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to help support its neighbourhood planning role in the district.

A total grant of £80k was claimed for in 2020/21 for 'Scotton', 'Bishop Norton and Atterby', 'Gainsborough' and 'Morton' of which £40k has been received and £40k is expected imminently.

At the year-end 2020/21 £33.1k of Neighbourhood Planning Grant (NPG) was transferred to the NPG earmarked reserve – with a balance of £67.8k at 31st March 2021, to support future costs of the neighbourhood planning process.

No further financial implications arising due to this report.

Staffing :

Internal resources in place to deal with neighbourhood planning.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : The Plan has been examined under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations for any issues relating to equality and diversity.

Data Protection Implications : n/a

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities : To succeed at examination the neighbourhood plans had to comply with national and strategic planning guidance on climate change. For each plan, the examiner found them to be sound in this respect. Climate change related policies in the NPs include, for example, ones on facilitating flood resilience/protection and encouraging carbon minimisation features in developments.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations : n/a

Health Implications: To succeed at examination the neighbourhood plans had to comply with national and strategic planning guidance on health and well-being. For each plan, the examiner found them to be sound in this respect. Health and well-being related policies in the NPs include, for example, ones on the provision of accessible homes, protection of local green spaces, safeguarding residential amenities, and identification of walkable routes.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Scotton Neighbourhood Plan:

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/neighbourhood-planning/all-neighbourhood-plans-in-west-lindsey/scotton-neighbourhood-plan/>

Bishop Norton and Atterby Neighbourhood Plan:

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/neighbourhood-planning/all-neighbourhood-plans-in-west-lindsey/bishop-norton-and-atterby-neighbourhood-plan/>

Gainsborough Neighbourhood Plan:

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/neighbourhood-planning/all-neighbourhood-plans-in-west-lindsey/gainsborough-town-neighbourhood-plan/>

Morton Neighbourhood Plan:

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/neighbourhood-planning/all-neighbourhood-plans-in-west-lindsey/morton-neighbourhood-plan/>

Risk Assessment : n/a

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

x

Key Decision:

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

Yes

x

No

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' approval to adopt (make) the Scotton, Bishop Norton and Atterby, Gainsborough, and Morton Neighbourhood Plans as part of the West Lindsey Development Plan. The report follows the plans' successful referendums which were held recently having been delayed by the coronavirus pandemic.

2. Background

- 2.1 Key stages/dates in the preparation of the plans up to their referendums were as follows:

- Scotton Parish Council, as the qualifying body, received Council approval in February 2017 for the parish to be designated as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of preparing a neighbourhood plan. The plan was submitted to the Council for examination in November 2019 and comments were invited from the public and stakeholders.
- As the qualifying body, Bishop Norton and Atterby Parish Council received Council approval in May 2016 for the parish to be designated as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of preparing a neighbourhood plan. In January 2020 the public and stakeholders were invited to formally comment on the plan as part of its submission to the Council for examination.
- Gainsborough Town Council, as the qualifying body, received Council approval in January 2017 for the parish to be designated as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of preparing a neighbourhood plan. The plan was submitted to the Council for examination in May 2020. Comments were invited from the public and stakeholders.
- In September 2016 Morton Parish Council as the qualifying body received Council approval for the parish to be designated as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of preparing a neighbourhood plan. In June 2020 the plan was submitted to the Council for examination and representations were requested from interested parties.

3. Decision & Reasoning

- 3.1 For each plan, the Council in agreement with its town/parish council appointed an independent examiner to examine whether the plan met the basic conditions required by legislation and if it should proceed to referendum.
- 3.2 The examiner's report for each plan concluded that it met the basic conditions, and that subject to the modifications proposed in the report, the plan should proceed to a referendum. Each report was considered

under the Council's delegated powers and it was agreed that each plan should proceed to referendum and in the outcome of a successful referendum result it should be made by the Council.

- 3.3 The referendums for each plan met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and were held on 6 May 2021 and posed the question using the Scotton NP as an example:

'Do you want West Lindsey District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Scotton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area'

- 3.4 The results of the referendums were:

Scotton NP	Votes recorded *	Percentage
Number of votes cast in favour of 'yes'	170	83.8%
Number of votes cast in favour of 'no'	30	14.8%

* 3 ballot papers rejected

Bishop Norton and Atterby NP	Votes recorded *	Percentage
Number of votes cast in favour of 'yes'	88	91.6%
Number of votes cast in favour of 'no'	7	6.8%

* 1 ballot paper was rejected

Gainsborough NP	Votes recorded *	Percentage
Number of votes cast in favour of 'yes'	2867	88.4%
Number of votes cast in favour of 'no'	286	8.8%

* 89 ballot papers were rejected

Morton NP	Votes recorded *	Percentage
Number of votes cast in favour of 'yes'	329	86%
Number of votes cast in favour of 'no'	47	12%

* 6 ballot papers were rejected

- 3.5 Legislation requires that the Council must make the neighbourhood plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan. For each plan, greater than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the plan being used to help decide planning applications in the plan area.

- 3.6 The duty of adopting (making) each plan would not apply if the plan was found to breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with any EU obligation or Convention rights. The Council has assessed that each plan has been prepared in accordance with these requirements.

- 3.7 In accordance with national planning guidance, the adopted (made) Scotton, Bishop Norton and Atterby, Gainsborough, and Morton Neighbourhood Plans must be given full weight in the determination of planning applications within their parish areas.

- 3.8 The four newly adopted plans will mean that West Lindsey will have a total of 21 neighbourhood plans in place covering a large part of the

district. Neighbourhood plans have given many of our local communities the tools to shape and protect their areas. This is welcomed by the Government which sees neighbourhood planning as a key part of its ambition to deliver the Localism Act.

- 3.9 The total number should continue to rise as there are currently 24 neighbourhood plans in various stages of preparation. There are also 2 plans being reviewed and potentially 42 areas in the district that are suitable for neighbourhood plans but have yet to start the process. Compared to nationally, West Lindsey is performing well in terms of neighbourhood plan coverage.

4. Recommendation:

- 4.1 That Members agree to adopt the Scotton, Bishop Norton and Atterby, Gainsborough, and Morton Neighbourhood Plans in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation**

