



COUNCIL

Monday, 4 July 2022

Subject: Adoption of the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan

Report by:

Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To adopt the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S): To adopt the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan 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/43/23/JA/MT

For every neighbourhood plan successful at examination the Council receives a grant of £20k from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to help support its neighbourhood planning role in the district. A claim of £20k has been submitted for the Sturton by Stow and Stow NP.

At the year-end 2021/22 £33.4k of Neighbourhood Planning Grant (NPG) was drawn down from the NPG earmarked reserve – with a balance of £34.4k at 31 March 2022, to support future costs of the neighbourhood planning process.

No further financial implications arising due to this report.

Staffing : HR???-??-??

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 a neighbourhood plan has to comply with national and strategic planning guidance on climate change. For the Sturton by Stow and Stow NP, the examiner found it to be sound in this respect. The NP seeks to ensure that developments are designed so that any potential negative impacts on climate change such as increased carbon emissions are mitigated and also developments should incorporate measures for resilience to climate change.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations : n/a

Health Implications:

To succeed at examination the Sturton by Stow and Stow NP had to comply with national and strategic planning guidance on health and well-being. The examiner found it to be sound in this respect. Health and well-being related policies in the NP include: conserving or enhancing of local green spaces, green infrastructure, community facilities and supporting the upgrading of the foot and cycle network.

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

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning/neighbourhood-planning/all-neighbourhood-plans-west-lindsey/sturton-stow-stow-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

Key Decision:

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

Yes

No

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' approval to adopt (make) the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan (SSNP) as part of the West Lindsey Development Plan. The report follows the SSNP's successful referendum which was held recently.

2. Background

- 2.1 Sturton by Stow and Stow Parish Councils (SSPCs), as the qualifying bodies, received Council approval in June 2018 to prepare a jointneighbourhood plan. The SSNP was submitted to the Council for examination in August 2021 and comments were invited from the public and stakeholders.

3. Decision & Reasoning

- 3.1 The Council in agreement with SSPCs appointed an independent examiner, Mr Andrew Ashcroft, to examine whether the SSNP met the basic conditions required by legislation and if it should proceed to referendum.

- 3.2 The Examiner's Report concluded that the SSNP met the basic conditions, and that subject to the modifications proposed in the report, the SSNP should proceed to a referendum. The report was considered under the Council's delegated powers and it was agreed that the SSNP should proceed to referendum and in the outcome of a successful referendum result it should be made by the Council.

- 3.3 The SSNP referendum met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. It was held on 26 May 2022 in Sturton by Stow and Stow and posed the question:

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

- 3.4 At the referendum 88% of those that voted were in favour of the SSNP. Legislation requires that the Council must make the neighbourhood plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan. Greater than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the SSNP being used to help decide planning applications in the plan area.

The results of the referendum were:	Votes recorded*	Percentage
Number of votes cast in favour of 'yes'	237	88.1%
Number of votes cast in favour of 'no'	32	11.9%

Electorate	1457
Ballot Papers Issued	269
Turnout	18.5%

* No ballot papers were rejected

- 3.5 The duty of adopting (making) the SSNP would not apply if the SSNP was found to breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with any EU obligation or Convention rights. The Council has assessed that the SSNP has been prepared in accordance with these requirements.
- 3.6 In accordance with national planning guidance, the adopted (made) Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan must be given full weight in the determination of planning applications within the parish areas.
- 3.7 Having an adopted Sturton by Stow and Stow NP will mean that West Lindsey has a total of 23 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.
- 3.8 The total number of NPs should continue to rise as there are currently 19 neighbourhood plans in various stages of preparation. Scampton Parish Council has recently received approval to prepare a NP. There are also 4 plans being reviewed and around 40 areas remaining 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 formally agree to adopt (make) the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.**