



COUNCIL

Monday, 6 March 2023

Subject: Adoption of the Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan

Report by:

Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To adopt the Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S): To adopt the Hemswell and Harpswell 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/171/23/JA/C

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 Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan (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:

Internal resources are in place to deal with neighbourhood planning.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

The NP 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:

The NP should have regard for national and strategic planning policy by requiring developments to address climate change and flood risk issues. At the examination, the examiner was satisfied that the NP had met this condition. The NP, for example, requires developments to use sustainable drainage systems.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: n/a

Health Implications:

At the examination, the NP had to show compliance with national and strategic planning policy by requiring developments to address health and well-being issues. The examiner found the NP to be sound in this respect.

The NP encourages developers to use the Building for a Healthy Life standard in the preparation of their planning applications. This standard is endorsed by the Government for promoting well-designed homes and creating good places to live.

Health and well-being-related policies in the NP include the retention and enhancement of: key views, local green spaces, landscape character areas, local services and facilities, and supporting the protection, reinstatement, and creation of public rights of way.

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/hemswell-harpswell-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 Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan (NP) as part of the West Lindsey Development Plan. The report follows the NP's successful referendum which was held just recently.

2. Background

- 2.1 Hemswell and Harpswell Parish Councils (PCs), as the qualifying bodies, received Council approval in April 2017 to prepare a joint neighbourhood plan. The NP was submitted by the PCs to the Council for examination in February 2022 and comments were invited from the public and stakeholders.

3. Decision & Reasoning

- 3.1 The Council, in agreement with the PCs, appointed an independent examiner to examine whether the NP met the basic conditions required by legislation and if it should proceed to referendum.
- 3.2 The Examiner's Report concluded that the NP met the basic conditions, and that subject to the modifications proposed in the report, the NP should proceed to a referendum. The NP was considered alongside the adopted and reviewed versions of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP). It was also confirmed that the NP had been prepared in accordance with EU obligations or Convention rights.
- 3.3 The Report was considered under the Council's delegated powers and it was agreed that the NP should proceed to a referendum and in the outcome of a successful referendum result it should be adopted (made) by the Council.
- 3.4 The NP referendum met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. It was held on 2 March 2023 in Hemswell and Harpswell and posed the question:

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

- 3.5 At the referendum 86% of residents who voted were in favour of the NP. 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 NP 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'	83	86%
Number of votes cast in favour of 'no'	14	14%

Electorate	319
Ballot Papers Issued	97
Turnout	30%

* No ballot papers were rejected

- 3.6 In accordance with national planning guidance, the adopted (made) Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan must be given full weight in the determination of planning applications within the parish areas.
- 3.7 Having an adopted Hemswell and Harpswell NP will mean that West Lindsey has a total of 24 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 of neighbourhood plans in the district should continue to rise as there are currently 19 neighbourhood plans in various stages of preparation. Blyton Parish Council is the most recent area to have received approval to prepare such a plan. There are also 7 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 Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.**