



COUNCIL

Monday 4 November
2024

Subject: Adoption of the Nettleham Neighbourhood Plan Review

Report by:

Director of Planning, Regeneration and
Communities

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To adopt the Nettleham Neighbourhood Plan
Review

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Members formally agree to adopt (make) the Nettleham Neighbourhood Plan Review in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

That the newly adopted (made) Nettleham Neighbourhood Plan Review November 2024, replaces the Nettleham Neighbourhood Plan adopted March 2016, to form part of the West Lindsey Development Plan for Nettleham parish area.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

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

Regulation 18A of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, stipulates that a neighbourhood plan (NP) must be made (adopted) within eight weeks of the referendum, which was held on 26 September 2024. This requirement will be met if the Council adopts the Nettleham Neighbourhood Plan Review (NNPR) at its meeting on 4 November 2024.

Financial: FIN REF/85/25/COUNCIL/SST

For neighbourhood plan reviews requiring an examination and new referendum the Council receives a grant of £20k from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to help support its neighbourhood planning role in the district. A claim of £20k will be submitted for the NNPR when a funding window is available.

Staffing:

Internal resources are in place to deal with neighbourhood planning and therefore there are no HR implications.

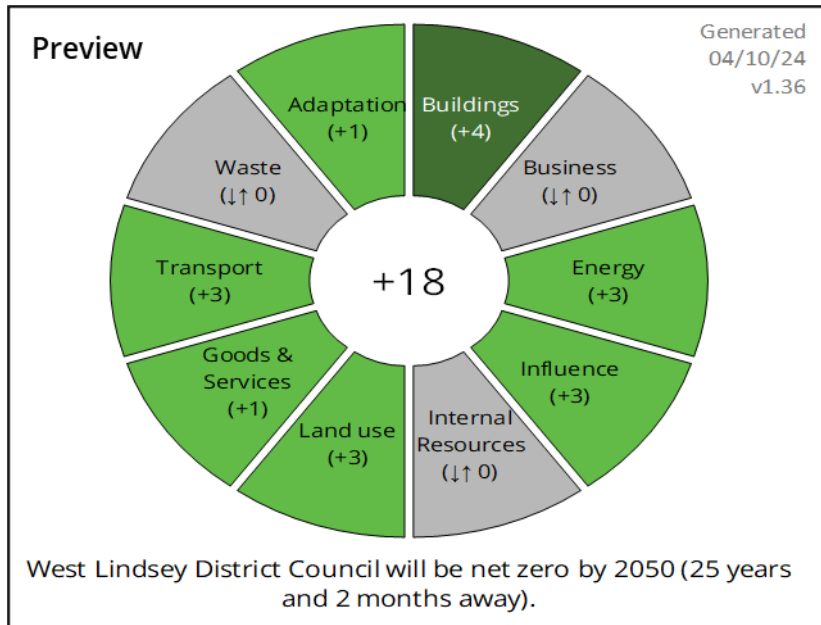
Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

The NNPR 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 NNPR scored well when it was evaluated using the Council's Climate, Environment, and Assessment tool. Please see below. The NNPR's approach to sustainable construction and provision of blue /green infrastructure received positive outcomes. The NNPR also rated good in terms of improving biodiversity adaptation.



The NNPR has been the subject of a Strategic Environmental and Habitats Regulations Assessment Report which concluded that the plan would be unlikely to give rise to any significant effects on protected sites.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

The NNPR expects new housing layouts to provide useable and safe public open spaces.

Health Implications:

The NNPR identifies minor and major green corridors to provide a focal point for local conservation effort and to aid community cohesion. They will help people access the countryside to experience wildlife first hand. Such corridors are important to ensure that residents have easy access to areas of open space for their health and well-being.

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

[Nettleham Neighbourhood Plan | West Lindsey District Council \(west-lindsey.gov.uk\)](https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk)

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 Nettleham Neighbourhood Plan Review (NNPR) as part of the West Lindsey Development Plan. The report follows the NNPR's successful referendum which was held on 26 September 2024.
- 1.2 The NNPR would be the second review of a NP to be adopted within the district. There are six other NPs being reviewed, all at different stages of preparation.

2. Background

- 2.1 NPs were introduced in the Localism Act 2011. They are important and powerful tools that give parish and town councils the statutory planning powers to shape how their communities develop. A NP is a document written by parish/town councils that sets out planning policies for a parish area which are used to help decide planning applications.
- 2.2 There are legal steps to creating a NP, for the first time, which must be followed, and they are: area designation, plan preparation, consultation, examination, referendum, and finally adoption (making).
- 2.3 Where a NP is being reviewed it does not need to redesignate its area. For later steps, if the review involves material modifications which change the nature of the NP it would require examination and referendum. A referendum is not required for a NP review which includes material modifications, but they do not change the nature of the NP. For a NP which has only minor modifications there is no requirement for an examination, referendum or readopting of the NP. It would be authorised under the scheme of officer delegation.
- 2.4 Following a successful examination and/or referendum, it is a requirement that the NP should be adopted by Full Council for it to formally become part of the West Lindsey Development Plan for that NP area alongside the Local Plan. In the case of a NP review, this would see it replacing the original NP for that area.
- 2.5 As part of the Development Plan, the adopted NP would be given full weight in helping determine future planning applications within its parish. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

3. Decision & Reasoning

- 3.1 Having completed preparation and consultation steps on the NNPR, Nettleham Parish Council (PC) submitted the plan to the Council for examination in October 2023 and comments were invited from the public and stakeholders.

- 3.2 The Council, in agreement with the PC, appointed an independent examiner to determine whether the NNPR met legal requirements and, as it was a NP review, if an examination was sufficient or if it should also go to a referendum.
- 3.3 The Examiner’s Report concluded that the NNPR met legal conditions, and that subject to the modifications proposed in the report, the NNPR should proceed to a referendum, as it contained significant changes to the original plan. The NNPR was examined alongside the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and was prepared in accordance with EU obligations or Convention rights.
- 3.4 The Examiner’s Report was considered under the Council’s delegated powers, and it was agreed that the NNPR should proceed to a referendum and if successful should be recommended for adoption (making) by the Council.
- 3.5 The NNPR referendum met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. It was held on 26 September 2024 in Nettleham and posed the question:
- ‘Do you want West Lindsey District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Nettleham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’***
- 3.6 At the referendum 94.56% of residents who voted were in favour of the NNPR. Legislation requires that the Council must make the NP if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of it. Greater than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the NNPR 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’	869	94.56%
Number of votes cast in favour of ‘no’	50	5.44%

Electorate	3482
Ballot Papers Issued	919
Turnout	26.39%

- 3.7 In accordance with national planning guidance, an adopted (made) NNPR should be given full weight in the determination of planning applications within the parish area.
- 3.8 NPs have given many of West Lindsey’s local communities the tools to shape and protect their areas. At each step, West Lindsey District Council strongly supports parish/town councils with their NPs. Currently, West Lindsey has 26 adopted NPs covering a large part of the district.
- 3.9 The total number of made NPs in the district should continue to rise as there are 16 in various stages of preparation. There are also six other NPs being reviewed and around 40 areas remaining in the district that are suitable for NPs but have yet to start the process. Compared to

nationally, West Lindsey continues to perform well in terms of NP coverage.

3.11 For the latest on NPs in West Lindsey please go to:

[Neighbourhood planning | West Lindsey District Council \(west-lindsey.gov.uk\)](https://www.westlindsey.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning)

4. Recommendation:

4.1 That Members formally agree to adopt (make) the Nettleham Neighbourhood Plan Review in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

4.2 That the newly adopted (made) Nettleham Neighbourhood Plan Review November 2024, replaces the Nettleham Neighbourhood Plan adopted March 2016, to form part of the West Lindsey Development Plan for Nettleham parish area.