



**Prosperous Communities**

**24<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Subject: Lea Neighbourhood Plan Public Referendum**

Report by:

Chief Operating Officer, Mark Sturgess

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Purpose / Summary:

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

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**Members formally approve the Lea 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: FIN/85/18**

**Additional financial contributions are available from DCLG to support Neighbourhood Planning and cover the cost of the public referendum so no impact on Council budgets.**

**Staffing: Neighbourhood Planning Officer's role is to support each NDP group in progressing through the process.**

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :**

**The Lea 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 Examiner's Report - <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/neighbourhood-planning/all-neighbourhood-plans-in-west-lindsey/lea-neighbourhood-plan/>**

**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**

**No**

## **1.0 Background to the Lea Neighbourhood Plan**

- 1.1 The Lea Neighbourhood Plan area was designated on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016. 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, including public meetings, public events, exhibitions and discussions with local businesses/landowners.
- 1.3 The Neighbourhood Plan Group identified and commissioned 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, design and type of future housing development
- Protection of Local Green spaces around the village
- Enhancing Lea's unique green infrastructure
- Managing flood risk

## **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 MRTPI) 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 Lea Public Referendum has been scheduled to take place on **Thursday the 7th December 2017**.

2.4 If more than 50% of those voting in the referendum vote 'yes', then the council will bring the plan into legal force and it forms part of the statutory development plan.

### **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 eight 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 January (2018) Full Council meeting.

### **4.0 Recommendation**

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