



**COUNCIL**

**Monday 24 June  
2024**

**Subject: Adoption of the Scothern Neighbourhood Plan Review**

Report by:

Director of Planning, Regeneration and  
Communities

Contact Officer:

Nev Brown  
Senior Neighbourhood Planning Policy Officer

nev.brown@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

To adopt the Scothern Neighbourhood Plan  
Review

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

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

**That the newly adopted (made) Scothern Neighbourhood Plan Review June 2024, replaces the Scothern Neighbourhood Plan adopted January 2017, to form part of the West Lindsey Development Plan for Scothern 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 is to be held on 20 June 2024. This requirement will be met if the Council adopts the Scothern Neighbourhood Plan Review (SNPR) at its meeting on 24 June 2024.

Here is the link to Regulation 18A:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/637/regulation/18A>

### **Financial: FIN/39/25/SST**

For neighbourhood plan reviews requiring an examination and new referendum 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 will be submitted for the SNPR when a funding window is available.

### **Staffing:**

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

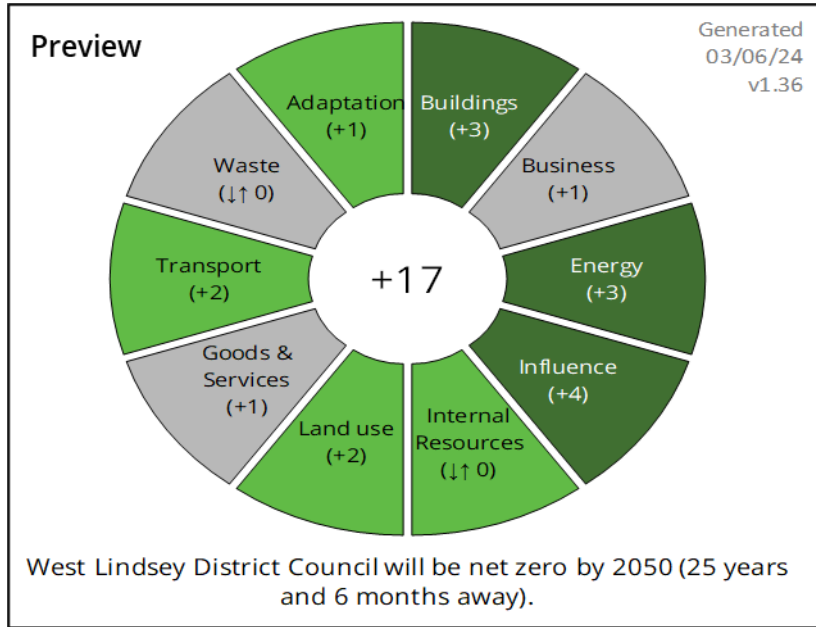
### **Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:**

The SNPR 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 SNPR received positive outcomes when it was evaluated using the Council's Climate, Environment, and Assessment tool. Please see below. The SNPR's approach to promoting active travel and the sustainable construction and use of buildings scored favourably. The SNPR also rated well in terms of influence by working extensively with partners and building awareness with residents about climate change.



The SNPR 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 SNPR expects new housing layouts and pedestrian/ cycle routes to be safe for residents and users and be well maintained.

### Health Implications:

The SNPR identifies local green spaces, and these are of great importance to the community, for nature conservation and amenity value. They are important to ensure that residents have easy access to areas of open space, recreational and leisure facilities for their health and well-being.

### 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/scothern-neighbourhood-plan>

--

<b>Risk Assessment :</b> 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 Scothern Neighbourhood Plan Review (SNPR) as part of the West Lindsey Development Plan. The report follows the SNPR's successful referendum which was held last week.
- 1.2 The SNPR would be the first review of a NP to be adopted within the district. There are eight 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 SNPR, Scothern Parish Council (PC) submitted the plan to the Council for examination in May 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 SNPR 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 SNPR met legal conditions, and that subject to the modifications proposed in the report, the SNPR should proceed to a referendum, as it contained significant changes to the original plan. The SNPR was examined alongside the new 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 SNPR should proceed to a referendum and if successful should be recommended for adoption (making) by the Council.
- 3.5 The SNPR referendum met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. It was held on 20 June 2024 in Scothern and posed the question:
- ‘Do you want West Lindsey District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Scothern to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’***
- 3.6 At the referendum 82.5% of residents who voted were in favour of the SNPR. 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 SNPR 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’	146	82.5%
Number of votes cast in favour of ‘no’	31	17.5%

Electorate	780
Ballot Papers Issued	177
Turnout	22.7%

- 3.7 In accordance with national planning guidance, an adopted (made) SNPR 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. This is welcomed by the Government which sees neighbourhood planning as a key part of its ambition to deliver the Localism Act. 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 17 in various stages of preparation. There are also eight 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.west-lindsey.gov.uk)

**4. Recommendation:**

- 4.1 That Members formally agree to adopt (make) the Scothern Neighbourhood Plan Review in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.**
- 4.2 That the newly adopted (made) Scothern Neighbourhood Plan Review June 2024, replaces the Scothern Neighbourhood Plan adopted January 2017, to form part of the West Lindsey Development Plan for Scothern parish area.**