

Godalming and Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan

Final Decision Statement published pursuant to Section 38A (9) and (10) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

1. Summary

Following the positive referendum result on 9 July 2019, Waverley Borough Council has decided to make the Godalming and Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2032 ("the Plan") under Section 38A(4) of the above Act. This statement sets out this decision and the reasons for the Council making this decision.

2. Background

The Godalming Neighbourhood Plan area was designated by Waverley Borough Council on 16 July 2013. Godalming Town Council the Plan to the Council on 19 September 2018. This was subject to statutory consultation between 19 October and 30 November 2018. The Council appointed an independent examiner who commenced the examination in December 2018. The examiner's report was received on 26 February 2019. This concluded that the Plan, with modifications, met the basic conditions and other legal requirements and could proceed to referendum.

On 2 April 2019, the Council published a Regulation 18 decision statement confirming that all of the modifications recommended by the examiner had been accepted and that the Plan, as modified, met the basic conditions and could proceed to referendum.

A referendum relating to the Plan 2017-2032 was held on Tuesday 9 July 2019. The referendum question was: "Do you want Waverley Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Godalming and Farncombe to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?" Paragraph 38A (4)(a) of the 2004 Act as amended requires that the Council must make a neighbourhood plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan. 91.5% of those who voted supported the Godalming and Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan. The detailed results were as follows:

- Total ballot papers counted: 2430
- Yes votes: 2210
- No votes: 204
- Ballot papers rejected: 16
- Electorate: 16512
- Ballot papers issued: 2430
- Turnout: 14.7%

A neighbourhood plan comes into force as part of the statutory development plan once it has been approved at referendum, however the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) still require the Council to 'make' a neighbourhood plan within 8 weeks of a positive referendum result. The Council has decided to 'make' the Plan.

3. Reasons for Decision and Where Decision Statement can be Inspected

The Plan complies with the legal requirements and basic conditions mentioned in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and with the provisions of Sections 38A and 38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It has also been subject to a referendum, and more than half of those who voted supported the Plan.

The Council is required by The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) to 'make' (adopt) the Plan as soon as reasonably practicable after the positive referendum result. There are narrow circumstances where a local planning authority is not required to 'make' a neighbourhood plan or order. These are where it considers that the making of the neighbourhood plan or order would breach, or otherwise be incompatible with, any EU or human rights obligations. It is not considered that making the Plan would breach or be incompatible with these obligations and as such it can now be formally 'made' by the Council.

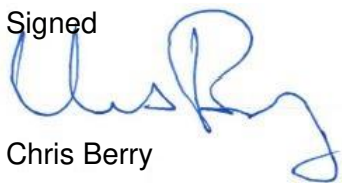
This decision has been made by the Interim Head of Planning and Economic Development under delegated authority.

This decision statement can be viewed on the Waverley Borough Council website at www.waverley.gov.uk/GodalmingNP. Hard copies can be inspected at:

- Planning Reception, Waverley Borough Council, The Burys, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1HR between 9am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, 9am to 4pm Friday.
- Godalming Town Council, Municipal Buildings, Bridge Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1HT between 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.
- Godalming Library. For opening times, see www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries.

A copy of this decision statement has been sent to the qualifying body (Godalming Town Council) and all persons who asked to be notified of the decision.

Signed



Chris Berry

Interim Head of Planning and Economic Development

13 August 2019