

MAKING OF THE WOBURN SANDS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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Executive Summary:

The Woburn Sands Neighbourhood Plan is the first Neighbourhood Plan to progress to a successful referendum in the Borough and it now falls to the Council to 'make' (rather than adopt) the Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Council's Development Plan.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the Council 'make' the Woburn Sands Neighbourhood Plan at Annex A to this report, part of the Milton Keynes Development Plan.
- 1.2 That the decision notice and the Woburn Sands Neighbourhood Plan be published on the Council's website and in other manners, to bring them to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the neighbourhood area.
- 1.3 That the decision notice and details on how to view the plan to be sent to the qualifying body (Woburn Sands Town Council) and any person who asked to be notified of the decision.

2. Issues

- 2.1 In accordance with the regulations the question posed in the referendum on 22 May 2014, was 'Do you want Milton Keynes Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for the Woburn Sands area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?' A simple majority of 51% of the representative community who are eligible to vote and actually vote has to be in favour for the Neighbourhood Plan to be made.
- 2.2 The number of votes cast in the referendum was 1033, 42% of those eligible to vote in the neighbourhood area population. 919 voted yes and 102 voted no; giving a 90% majority in favour of the neighbourhood plan.
- 2.3 Given the high level of community support, the next stage is that the Council formally makes the Woburn Sands Neighbourhood Plan part of the Milton Keynes Development Plan, and resolves that it be used to help determine planning applications in the area of the Plan.
- 2.4 In accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act, as modified by Section 61E(4) of the 2011 Localism Act the Council must, as soon as possible after deciding to make the neighbourhood development plan:

- (a) publish on the website and in such other manner as they consider is likely to bring the order to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area:
 - (i) the decision document, at Annex B;
 - (ii) details of where and when the decision document may be inspected;
- (b) send a copy of the decision document to:
 - (i) the qualifying body and
 - (ii) any person who asked to be notified of the decision.

2.5 In addition, the council will, as soon as possible after deciding to make the neighbourhood development plan;

- (a) publish on their website and in such other manner as they consider is likely to bring the order to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area:
 - (i) the Woburn Sands Neighbourhood Development Plan; and
 - (ii) details of where and when the plan may be inspected;
- (b) notify any person who asked to be notified of the making of the neighbourhood development plan that it has been made and where and when it may be inspected.

2.6 The Woburn Sands Neighbourhood Plan is provided at Annex A.

3. **Options**

There are no alternative options available to the Council on this matter. This is because the Localism Act states the Council must make a neighbourhood development plan to which the proposal relates, if in each applicable referendum under that Schedule (as so applied) more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan. The referendum result is clear and so therefore the only option to the Council is to make the Woburn Sands Neighbourhood Plan.

4. **Implications**

4.1 Policy

The Woburn Sands Neighbourhood Plan provides detail below the adopted Core Strategy which in turn provides a planning dimension to many of the Councils priorities, vision and values.

4.2 Resources and Risk

Financial: The costs of the examination and the subsequent referendum have been taken into account within existing budgetary provision for Development Plans Inquiries within Planning and Transport, together with the additional

funding provided through Government grants. Publicity costs will be met within the Development Plans budget.

Staffing: The preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan has involved commitment of officers and members time and energy. The bulk of the preparation of the Plan however was provided by the Town Council. Most of the staff resources are met within the Development Plans and the Member and Electoral Services Teams.

N	Capital	Y	Revenue	N	Accommodation
N	IT	Y	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

4.3 Carbon and Energy Management

The Woburn Sands Neighbourhood Plan does not have any direct influence on carbon or energy management issues.

4.4 Legal

The Council has a statutory duty to incorporate Neighbourhood Plans into its development plan unless a change in circumstances means the draft plan now fails to meet the 'basic conditions' in statute required for it to be made. No such changes have occurred and the examiner's report confirms the Plan meets the basic conditions.

4.5 Other Implications

The making of the Woburn Sands Neighbourhood Plan will require a decision statement, and copies sent to those who requested this during previous rounds of public consultation.

N	Equalities/Diversity	Y	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
N	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

Background Papers:

Delegated decision on the Woburn Sands Neighbourhood Plan, 8 April 2014.

The Woburn Sands Neighbourhood Plan examiner's report.