

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 11
20 NOVEMBER 2017	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Simon Machen - Corporate Director of Growth and Regeneration	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Peter Hiller - Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development	
Contact Officer(s):	Phil Hylton - Senior Strategic Planning Officer	Tel. 863879

ADOPTION OF THE AILSWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Corporate Director of Growth and Regeneration	Deadline date: 13/12/2017
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Recommends to Full Council that, following the successful referendum on 2 November 2017, the Ailsworth Neighbourhood Plan, as set out at Appendix A, be ‘made’ (which means to all intents and purposes ‘adopted’) and thereby form part of the Development Plan for Peterborough for the purpose of making decisions on relevant planning applications within Ailsworth Parish; <i>and</i> 2) Recommends to Full Council that the decision statement included at Appendix B be published 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following the submission and successful examination of the Ailsworth Neighbourhood Plan. The Ailsworth Neighbourhood Plan was subject to a referendum of voters in Ailsworth Parish who were asked to vote on the following question: ‘Do you want Peterborough City Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for the Ailsworth Neighbourhood Area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’ This referendum was held on Thursday 2 November 2017 with 97.7% of those voting in support of the plan.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to recommend that Council adopts the Ailsworth Neighbourhood Plan making it part of the statutory Development Plan for Peterborough.

Following the successful referendum on 2 November 2017 legislation set out in the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (as amended) stipulate that the Council must make the the neighbourhood plan part of the development plan.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.1, ‘*To take collective responsibility for the delivery of all strategic Executive functions within the Council’s Major Policy and Budget Framework and lead the Council’s overall improvement programmes to*

deliver excellent services.’

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	YES	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	20 November 2017
Date for relevant Council meeting	13 December 2017	Date for submission to Government Dept. <i>(Please specify which Government Dept.)</i>	N/A

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 Neighbourhood Planning was formally introduced to the planning system in the Localism Act in 2011. It provides communities with the opportunity to shape how their area will grow and enables them to develop a suite of policies against which planning applications in their area will be considered, alongside the policies in the Development Plan (often referred to as the Local Plan).

4.2 The Ailsworth Neighbourhood Area was formally designated by Peterborough City Council on 7 October 2014 and since this date members of Ailsworth Parish Council (and other community volunteers) have developed their plan through extensive consultation with the community and through other evidence gathering work. This work included a statutorily required consultation in early 2017 undertaken by the parish council as a Qualifying Body, prior to the plan and associated evidence being formally submitted to Peterborough City Council in April 2017.

4.3 Following its submission, the neighbourhood plan was again the subject of a formal six week consultation, this time organised by Peterborough City Council, which ran from 15 May to 26 June 2017 and this consultation was followed by an independent examination by a suitably qualified individual. The independent examiner considered the plan against the necessary requirements of the relevant legislation and concluded that the plan, subject to some minor modifications, met what is called the ‘basic conditions’ and, therefore, should proceed to a local referendum in the Ailsworth Neighbourhood Plan Area. The Corporate Director of Growth and Regeneration, under authority delegated by the Council, issued a decision on 20 September 2017 that the Council agreed with these findings and that the plan should proceed to referendum.

4.4 The Counting Officer (Gillian Beasley) published the necessary information and publicised notice of the referendum in accordance with the requirements of legislation, with the referendum taking place on Thursday 2 November 2017. The result of the referendum is as follows:

‘Yes’ votes	301	97.7%
‘No’ votes	6	1.9%
Total ballot papers issued	308	100.0%

As more than 50% of those voting supported the plan the Council must now adopt the plan and make it part of the Development Plan for Peterborough.

4.5 The Ailsworth Neighbourhood Plan has been produced alongside the Castor Neighbourhood Plan with consultation stages, examination and referendum taking place concurrently. The Ailsworth and Castor Neighbourhood Plans are the second and third neighbourhood plans to reach this stage following the Peakirk Neighbourhood Plan’s adoption in July 2017. The Parish

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Councillors and members of the community responsible for its production have invested a substantial amount of time and energy into this process over the past four years and it is a substantial success for the neighbourhood planning group, the Council and the residents of the Ailsworth Area.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Ailsworth Neighbourhood Plan has been the subject of substantial consultation during its preparation. The draft plan was subjected to a formal six week consultation in early 2017 and the submitted plan was also subjected to an additional six week consultation in May and June 2017 before it was independently examined.
- 5.2 No further consultation is necessary on this plan.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 Cabinet and Council have very little option at this stage and the decision is fully dependent on the outcome of the referendum. As the outcome of the referendum was positive, then the Plan must be 'made' (adopted) by Council. When 'made' the neighbourhood plan will be used in making decisions on relevant planning applications within the Ailsworth Neighbourhood Area, alongside the policies in the wider Development Plan for Peterborough. As the Plan has been approved by Referendum, the Council is required henceforth to treat it as part of the statutory development plan, although this status will cease if the Plan is not "made" by the Council

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 This recommendation is made to be in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (as amended). The plan has been assessed by an independent examiner and officers agree that the plan meets the basic conditions and other requirements of legislation. As such, the Plan should be 'made' part of the Development Plan.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The Council does not have alternative options given the content of the legislation and the content of the Ailsworth Neighbourhood Plan and the process followed in its production..

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 There are no foreseen financial implications of this recommendation.

Legal Implications

- 9.2 The Council is required by legislation to follow through on this recommendation.

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 There are no anticipated equalities implications of this recommendation.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix A - Ailsworth Neighbourhood Plan
- 11.2 Appendix B - Ailsworth Neighbourhood Plan Final Decision Statement

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