



## **West Northamptonshire Council**

### **Pitsford Neighbourhood Development Plan**

#### **Decision Statement**

**20 June 2022**

#### **1. Summary**

1.1 Following a positive referendum result, West Northamptonshire Council is publishing its decision to 'make' the Pitsford Neighbourhood Development Plan as part of West Northamptonshire Council's Development Plan in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

#### **2. Background**

2.1 Pitsford Parish Council, as the qualifying body, applied for the designation of a neighbourhood area covering the entire Pitsford Parish on 7 December 2016. The Council approved the application and designated the Pitsford neighbourhood area on 13 December 2016.

2.2 The draft Neighbourhood Development Plan was published by Pitsford Parish Council for public consultation between 4 January 2021 to 15 February 2021.

2.3 Following submission of the Pitsford Neighbourhood Development Plan to West Northamptonshire Council on 20 August 2021 the plan was published for consultation between 27 August 2021 to 15 October 2021.

2.4 Following the submission consultation, West Northamptonshire Council, with the agreement of the Parish Council, appointed an independent Examiner, Andrew Ashcroft BA (Hons) MA, DMS, MRTPI, to review whether the plan met the Basic Conditions required by the legislation and should proceed to a referendum.

2.5 Following the examination, the Examiner's report was completed in March 2022 and made available on the Council's website. The report concludes that subject to the making of the modifications recommended in his report, the plan meets the Basic Conditions set out in legislation and should proceed to a referendum. The Council proposed to make a different decision to the Examiner in respect of one issue, deletion of important view V6, and accordingly undertook post-examination consultation. At its meeting on 26 April 2022 West

Northamptonshire Council’s Planning Policy Committee considered a report on the Pitsford Neighbourhood Development Plan. Having considered that report, it was resolved that Committee:

- a) Noted and welcomed the significant progress in making the PNDP by the Pitsford community.
- b) Accepted the Examiner’s recommended modifications in respect of the PNDP.
- c) Accepted the Examiner’s recommendation that the PNDP, as modified in accordance with recommendation b) above, should proceed to a referendum of voters within Pitsford Parish.
- d) Approved the proposed decision statement set out in Appendix 1, subject to recommendations b) and c) and any necessary factual alterations.
- e) Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Interim Head of Planning and Climate Change Policy to make further minor editorial changes to the PNDP to address any factual and typographical errors and to reflect the fact that the document will be in its intended final form.
- f) Agreed that the costs of the referendum be met from the earmarked reserve for neighbourhood planning.

### 3. Decision and Reasons

3.1 With the Examiner’s recommended modifications, the Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions set out in paragraph (8) (2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, is compatible with EU obligations and the Convention Rights and complies with relevant provision made by or under Sections 38A and B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended.

3.2 A referendum into the Plan was held on 16 June 2022. Those voting were asked the following question:  
 ‘Do you want West Northamptonshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Pitsford to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’

3.3 The count took place on Thursday 16 June 2022, the result of the referendum was as follows:

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number of Votes</b>	<b>Percentage of Total</b>
Yes	180	93.75%
No	12	6.25%
Turnout: 35.42%		
Number of ballot papers rejected: 0		

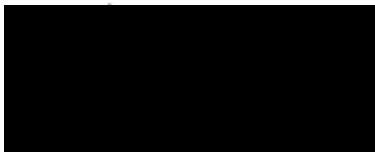
3.4 The Regulations require that a majority of those voting vote in favour for the plan to be made. This requirement is therefore satisfied.

3.5 To be legally compliant, neighbourhood development plans must not contravene Convention rights or European Union obligations when made. Based on the Screening Report for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment (December 2020) and confirmed by the examiner in his report (April 2022) and that nothing has come to light subsequently, there is no evidence to suggest any such contravention would occur. I am satisfied that this requirement is met and it is possible for the plan to now be made.

**Upon the signing of this document by the Interim Head of Planning and Climate Change Policy, the Pitsford Neighbourhood Plan is made and planning applications in the Pitsford Neighbourhood Area must be considered against the Pitsford Neighbourhood Plan, as well as existing planning policy.**

I certify that the above statements are true.

Signed:



Jane Parry, Senior Policy Officer (Planning)  
Date 20 June 2022

I certify that I am satisfied that the making the Pitsford Neighbourhood Development Plan would not contravene Convention rights or European Union obligations.

Signed:



Richard Wood, Interim Head of Planning and Climate Change Policy  
Date 20 June 2022