

**MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL
WEST BLETCHLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Decision Statement – 20 March 2019

Summary

Following a referendum of all residents eligible to vote within the West Bletchley Neighbourhood Plan area, Milton Keynes Council will make the West Bletchley Neighbourhood Plan part of the Milton Keynes Council Development Plan on 20th March 2019.

Background

West Bletchley Council, as the qualifying body, successfully applied for its area to be designated a Neighbourhood Area, under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012). The area was designated on 10 December 2013.

The West Bletchley Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to the Council for examination and was subsequently publicised for a six-week period, ending on 19th June, 2018. All comments received were then passed to the Examiner, Mr John Parmiter, who submitted his report on the Plan in September 2018, stating that the plan met relevant basic conditions and requirements and, subject to modifications, should proceed to referendum.

Following the examination, Milton Keynes Council, in consultation with West Bletchley Council, accepted the examiner's recommendations on 22nd October, 2018 and proceeded to make arrangements for a referendum to be held on 14th February, 2019.

The West Bletchley Neighbourhood Plan was successful at the referendum held on 14th February. 2032 voted 'Yes' and 343 'No', turnout was 13.35%. Under the changes to Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, introduced by the Neighbourhood Planning Act, 2017, following a successful referendum a Neighbourhood Plan comes into force as part of the statutory development plan. The Plan must still be made by the local planning authority within 8 weeks of the referendum.

The Plan includes a series of policies and proposals to protect and enhance the character of and provision of homes, jobs and other services in the parish. It does this through a number of land-use planning policies which address specific sites and set out general planning principles and criteria to guide new development in the parish.

Decision

The Council makes the West Bletchley Neighbourhood Plan part of the Milton Keynes Council Development Plan. In doing so, the Council is of the opinion that the Plan is compatible with all relevant European Union obligations, as incorporated into UK law, and is legally compliant.

The Council agrees to this decision statement and the West Bletchley Neighbourhood Plan being published on the Milton Keynes Council website and in other ways to bring them to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the neighbourhood area. The decision statement and details of how to view the plan will be sent to the qualifying body and any person who asked to be notified of the decision.