

**MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL
STANTONBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Decision Statement – 16 JUNE 2021

Summary

Following a referendum of residents eligible to vote within the Stantonbury Neighbourhood Plan area, Milton Keynes Council will make the Stantonbury Neighbourhood Plan part of the Milton Keynes Council Development Plan on 16th June 2021.

Background

Stantonbury Parish 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 14th April 2015.

The Stantonbury Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to the Council for examination and was subsequently publicised for a six-week period, ending on, 8th March 2019. All comments received were then passed to the Examiner, Nigel McGurk, who submitted his report on the Plan in June 2019, stating that the plan met relevant basic conditions and requirements and, subject to modifications, should proceed to referendum.

Milton Keynes Council considered the Examiner's report and accepted all of the recommendations apart from those relating to policies SNP14, SNP16 & SNP17, which the examiner recommended for deletion. In the Council's view, these policies were capable of being amended in order to overcome the Examiner's concerns and to meet the basic conditions. A re-examination of these revised policies was undertaken by a new examiner, Andrew Ashcroft, who recommended that subject to these policies modifications that the Neighbourhood Plan proceed to referendum.

Following the re-examination, Milton Keynes Council, in consultation with Stantonbury Parish Council accepted the examiner's recommendations and proceeded to make arrangements for a referendum to be held on 7th May 2020. However, the referendum was postponed as a consequence of the coronavirus outbreak.

This postponement was confirmed through the Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, which provided that any referendums due to be held between 7th May 2020 and 5th May 2021 shall be postponed and deferred until Thursday 6th May 2021.

The Stantonbury Neighbourhood Plan was successful at the referendum held on 6th May 2021. 2385 voted 'Yes' and 461 'No', turnout was 36.72%. Under the changes to Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, following the successful referendum the Stantonbury Neighbourhood Plan came into force as part of the Milton Keynes statutory development plan. The Stantonbury Neighbourhood Plan must still be made by the Council within 8 weeks of the referendum.

Decision

The Council makes the Stantonbury Neighbourhood Plan part of the Milton Keynes Council Development Plan.