

**MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL  
STONY STRATFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**Decision Statement - 20 June 2018**

**Summary**

Following a referendum of all residents eligible to vote within the Stony Stratford Neighbourhood Plan area, Milton Keynes Council will make the Stony Stratford Neighbourhood Plan part of the Milton Keynes Council Development Plan.

**Background**

Stony Stratford Town 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 22 January 2013.

The Stony Stratford Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to the Council for examination and was subsequently publicised for a six-week period, ending on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. All comments received were then passed to the Examiner, Mr John Slater, who submitted his report on the Plan in December 2016, stating that the plan met relevant basic conditions and requirements and, subject to modifications, should proceed to referendum. The Examiner however suggested that the Council should prepare a revised Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening opinion before adopting the plan.

Following the examination, Milton Keynes Council accepted the examiner's recommendations on 23 November 2017. In line with the Examiner's recommendations, the Council prepared a revised Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion and, as a result of this work, considered that some additional modifications should be made to Policies 2, 3 and 9 of the Neighbourhood Plan in order to improve their clarity and provide an appropriate level of protection for the historic environment.

Milton Keynes Council therefore carried out a further 6 week consultation on the proposed additional changes, under section 13 (1) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Four responses were received during the consultation period. Having considered these responses, the Council considered that a further examination into the matters they raised was not required and, on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 the Director of Place decided that the changes that had been consulted on should be made to the plan and that it should proceed to a referendum on 3 May, 2018.

The Stony Stratford Neighbourhood Plan was successful at the referendum held on 3 May. 2208 voted 'Yes' and 237 'No', turnout was 43.15%. Under the changes to S38 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 care for and encourage the continuation of the parish's historic and natural environment, economy and retail. 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 Stony Stratford 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 Stony Stratford 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.